



Home Office

Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP
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25 JAN 2018

Dr Wilkins

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2017 sent to the Home Secretary about Greater Manchester Policing services. I am replying as the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service. I am sorry for the delay in my reply.

Ahead of the publication of the provisional police funding settlement for 2018/19, I have spoken to every police force in England and Wales, including Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to better understand changing demands of policing.

We published the provisional police funding settlement on 19 December 2017. Following the Spending Review 2015, we protected force funding (including precept) at around flat cash. The settlement however, is a comprehensive one and responds to changing demand with a year on year increase in total police funding of up to £450 million, including a £50m increase in Counter-Terrorism police budgets for 2018/19. This will enable an increase of up to £270 million in funding going directly to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for them and their Chief Constable to spend on local priorities. This settlement recognises the demands on the police and gives police leaders the tools they need to respond effectively.

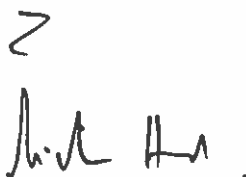
At force level, we are protecting police grant and enabling PCCs to increase their funding by up to £270 million through providing flexibility to raise precept by up to £1 a month for a typical Band D household. For GMP, we estimate that there will be an increase in direct resource funding of £10.4 million or 1.9%, if the PCC opts to use the additional precept flexibility.

My assessment is that overall; the police can maintain officer numbers at around their current level. As mentioned above we have given PCCs the flexibility to increase precept income to protect frontline services and helped them identify a significant amount of potential procurement savings.

It is therefore the responsibility of Police leaders to make the right decisions for their local areas about Council Tax and the workforce.

In addition, the overall number of police officers in England and Wales has risen in the six months to March 2017, while the number of new officers joining forces has increased by almost 60 per cent since 2015/16. Since 2010 police forces have increased the proportion of officers working at the frontline and proven that you can continue to cut crime with a smaller, more agile workforce.

Given the above consultation responses are still welcome until 5pm on 16th January 2018 when it closes. I am in regular contact with Police leaders for Greater Manchester Police and will continue to review the support provided on an ongoing basis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Hurd', with a small flourish above it.

Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP