

**BEV HUGHES**  
**DEPUTY MAYOR**  
**OF GREATER**  
**MANCHESTER**

Dr Carolyn Wilkins  
Chief Executive  
Oldham MBC  
Level 3 Civic Centre  
West Street  
Oldham  
OL1 1UG

#CO2572/cw/Dr Carolyn Wilkins

22nd March, 2018

Dear Dr Wilkins,

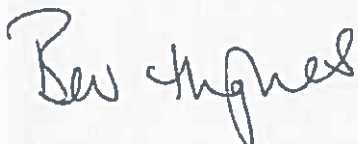
Thank you for your letter regarding the reduction to the budget of Greater Manchester Police and the effect it has had on the police service's ability to make our communities feel safe. The Mayor has asked me to respond on his behalf. Please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

I share your concerns regarding the funding cuts which Greater Manchester Police have had to undertake since 2010 and I have recently raised my concerns with Nick Hurd, Minister of State for Policing. I have attached a copy of my letter to him dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 for your reference.

Both the Mayor, Chief Constable and I are committed to ensuring that residents in Greater Manchester feel safe and secure in their neighbourhoods and we have called on the Government to increase the amount of funding available to Greater Manchester Police to ensure that the Force has the number of officers it needs to keep our communities safe.

I will keep you updated on any changes to the funding arrangements for Greater Manchester Police.

Yours sincerely



Baroness Beverley Hughes  
Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime

GMCA, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
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**BEV HUGHES**  
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**OF GREATER**  
**MANCHESTER**

Nick Hurd MP  
Association Office  
32 High Street  
Northwood  
HA6 1BN

18<sup>th</sup> January 2018

*Dear Nick*

I'm writing in response to the draft Police Grant Settlement announced by the Government on 18 December 2017.

The announcement recognised and provided the much-needed context of the changing threats and demands for policing services – and this is to be welcomed. However, the manner in which the headline figure of £450m was presented is somewhat disingenuous because it assumes that Police and Crime Commissioners – or their mayoral equivalents – will raise the precept to the maximum level, and that the council tax base will grow in line with the Office of Budget Responsibility.

These factors are not guaranteed by any stretch, and the flat cash grant does not take in to account inflation, the pay award and those pressures linked to the delay of the replacement of the airwaves radio service.

It is clear therefore, that the Government expects local tax payers, who are already under considerable financial strain, to pick up these additional costs. Should we choose not to maximise the precept in Greater Manchester, the only other alternative available to us to ensure we remain within the resource envelope is to cut officer, staff or PCSO numbers.

I am also dismayed to see that the level of top slicing has increased again. In 16/17 the level of top slicing was £499m. This increased to £812m in 17/18, and the proposal for 2018/19 is £945m which represents an 89% increase from 2016/17.

For Greater Manchester this means that £55m of funding which could have been used for frontline policing has effectively been diverted towards national projects.

I note that £670m of the top slice has been allocated against the police technology programme and the Transformation Fund. While I support policing reform, I am yet to be convinced that the benefits of these national projects will be felt at a local level. I urge the Government to use the earliest opportunity to clearly demonstrate the local benefits of these national programmes, and make it clear how these will be realised.

The precept proposals are a poisoned chalice because, without an equal commitment from the Government, the totality of inflationary (including pay) pressures and demand changes will fall solely on the shoulders of local tax payers.

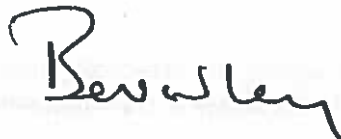
Finally, with regard to the inclusion of reserves in the police grant tables, while I agree that there should be indubitable transparency around all the funds available to Mayors and Police

and Crime Commissioners – and to this end Greater Manchester will continue to publish its reserves strategy – reserves should not be used to fund pay awards as a recurrent expenditure item. Nor should this information be presented in a tabular form, as they were in the provisional grant tables.

Presenting details of police reserves in this way does not provide the full and necessary context within which commissioners have developed their reserve strategy, and such an approach runs the risk of misleading stakeholders and the wider public.

I ask that you reconsider the provisional settlement and use the publication of the final settlement to demonstrate how the Government is shouldering some of the burden for the increasing costs and demands of policing services, rather than expecting the local tax payer to pick up the entire bill.

Yours sincerely



**Baroness Beverley Hughes**  
**Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester**  
**Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice**

GMCA, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

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