

# The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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**Alan Hardwick**

**The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire**

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The Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
 Secretary of State for the Home Department  
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*Dear Home Secretary,*

## **PROVISIONAL POLICE GRANT REPORT 2015/16**

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 2014 in which you invite comment on the provisional Police Grant Report 2015/16 setting out force-level allocations of central government funding.

Your proposals are disappointing: they perpetuate historic practice and still do not recognise that a different approach is required in a prolonged period of funding reductions.

The reducing total available for police and crime services requires an approach that

- reduces overheads and minimises the impact of funding reductions for front line services;
- incentivises efficiency and penalises inefficiency; and
- supports the financial sustainability of police forces.

The provisional Police Grant Report does none of these things.

It allocates increased funding to central priorities at the expense of front line services.

The issues around grant distribution are again not addressed. All areas will face the same percentage grant reduction irrespective of their current levels of funding, spending or efficiency. Alongside this, the introduction of a range of hard-charging for previously centrally funded ICT services to local forces has the potential to further penalise those rural forces with large geographical areas.

The increasing need to protect a small number of vulnerable forces where there is a potential risk of service failure continues to be ignored in the grant distribution. The lack of urgency on the more fundamental grant review is particularly disappointing as the existing system – a flawed and outdated formula overridden by uniform percentage reductions - clearly needs to be replaced with a better way of funding police and crime services.

In the absence of more permanent solutions, I do support the introduction of the Police Special Grant as a short term measure for those forces with the most immediate pressures. It will be important for forces, like Lincolnshire, which face the greatest financial risks, to be able to access these funds.

Sincerely  
Alan Hardwick

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