



Lincolnshire POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

SAFER TOGETHER

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Date: 10th January 2019
Our Ref: MJ/jf/ch/HO-2018-035

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP
Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service

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Dear Ministers

Police Funding for 2019/20

Thank you for your letter of 13 December 2018 in which you invite comment on the Provisional Police Grant report 2019-20.

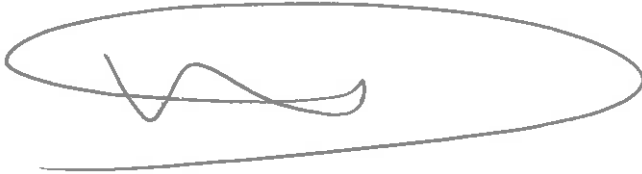
I welcome your recognition of the changing demands on the police service together with your announcement of additional central government funding for the police. Taken together, the additional Police Grant together with the additional funding for police pensions meet most, but not all, of the additional costs that Lincolnshire will incur as a result of the increased costs of police pensions.

I also welcome the proposal to grant additional precept flexibility to Police & Crime Commissioners – as directly elected individuals Police and Crime Commissioners are accountable to their electorate for their decisions on the local funding of the policing services in their area.

However, precept flexibility alone will not address Lincolnshire's need for sustainable funding. To protect service levels in 2018/19, I have supported Lincolnshire's budget by drawing more than £5m from our meagre reserves. I cannot repeat this in 2019/20 – my reserves are depleted. Precept flexibility in 2019/20 has the potential to mitigate the reductions, but Lincolnshire will still need to make budget reductions of more than £3m next year, the equivalent of 60 police officers.

The long-standing structural funding inequality of the current resource allocation methodology for central government grant must be addressed. I understand your commitment and intention to revisit the Core Grant Distribution Review as part of the next Spending Review. However, I continue to urge you to consider introducing short term measures to ensure that forces, like Lincolnshire, which are particularly disadvantaged by the current methodology, can continue to provide the level of policing services that local people expect until the new methodology is introduced.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Marc Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire