

West Yorkshire Police & Crime Panel
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To: Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Home Secretary

Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP
Minister for Policing

Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

1st February 2019

Dear Home Secretary/Police Minister

We are writing to you as members of the West Yorkshire Police & Crime Panel to highlight key issues and concerns following our recent precept meeting at which we felt we were left with no choice but to raise the amount of the Police Precept by £24 for Band D equivalent properties in West Yorkshire. In 2018 the rise was £12 on a Band D property.

The recently announced provisional police grant settlement for 2019/20 provided us with little reassurance, particularly as it was only a one year settlement and does not allow the Police & Crime Commissioner to plan more long term. We feel the settlement was in fact a way of Government putting yet more onus on the council tax payer to fund police officers.

West Yorkshire has had to face significant government cuts of over £140 million since 2010 and over 2000 police jobs have been lost in total.

Following on from the latter, the Government announcement around police pensions only takes the Force back to where they thought their overstretched budget was a couple of months ago and it gives no clear indication of whether the £12 million per year pensions shortfall in West Yorkshire will be covered from 2020 onwards.

This leaves police services facing a cliff edge in the year ahead unless it is properly addressed in the next Comprehensive Spending Review. In order to tackle crime effectively, we need a well-funded, well-trained and well-supported police force that is rooted in the communities it serves so that crime is reduced and victims are supported.

The impact of austerity, Brexit and the ongoing financial uncertainty has substantially impacted the people of West Yorkshire. The continued trend of replacing central funding with local taxation puts an added burden on the poorest in our communities and we ask for a review of this policy.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Lowe', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Alison Lowe
Chair, West Yorkshire Police & Crime Panel

Cc: Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP, Chair of the Home Affairs Committee,
Rt Hon Meg Hilliers MP, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee
West Yorkshire MP's
Leaders of the West Yorkshire Local Authorities
West Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner