



**Mark Burns-Williamson OBE**  
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire  
Ploughland House  
62 George Street  
Wakefield WF1 1DL



Office of the  
**Police & Crime  
Commissioner**  
West Yorkshire

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/KJ

Your Reference:

24 July 2020

Dear Kit

I hope you are well during this extremely busy time.

I intend to provide a more fulsome response to your letter of the 5th of June regarding the potential transfer of PCC powers in West Yorkshire following our further conversations with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. In advance of that response however, I would like to ensure you have a copy of my response to the public consultation on the West Yorkshire Devolution deal, specifically regarding the possible transfer of PCC Functions.

The key points to draw your attention to within the response are:

- My overriding priority as PCC for West Yorkshire is that communities continue to be safe and feel safe, in particular during these difficult and uncertain times.
- The governance model is of great importance both to maintain the operational independence of Policing, but also to provide the clarity of direct accountability in Policing Governance. This importantly retains and ensures a clear message to the communities of West Yorkshire around clear accountability and reassurance. Given the potential change in the PCC transfer timeframe from May 2024 to May 2021, it is incumbent on me to point out that the governance model outlined fundamentally impacts on the ease and efficiency of any transition. Under a model that replicates the directly accountable individual within a separate entity such as the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (as in London), which you will fully understand as a former Deputy Mayor for Policing under that model. Many of the functions, particularly the support functions that currently exist, and to a large degree the decision making and delegation framework, could continue in a very similar fashion to how they currently operate. This would provide a greater connect with our communities and ensure continued delivery on community outcomes and importantly minimise disruption to West Yorkshire Police.
- On balance I support the proposal to transfer PCC functions to a West Yorkshire Mayor, however, it is my view that these functions are best served within a separate Mayoral entity for policing governance and accountability that builds on the best

Tel No: 01924 294000

Email: [markburns-williamson@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:markburns-williamson@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk)

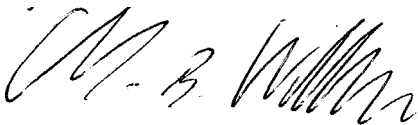
[www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk)

elements of the existing policing governance models that currently exist elsewhere in England and Wales and best retains the integrity of the PCC concept.

- As the West Yorkshire PCC, uniquely I am currently the Lead Local Policing Body for the National Police Air Service (NPAS) for England & Wales and therefore the legal entity for contracts, governance and the owner of the helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, most of which transferred from other PCCs when NPAS was formally created in 2014, as well as the majority of the air base leases. Under the current proposals put forward, this would all transfer to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. On learning of these proposals Police and Crime Commissioners and Board members have written to me to express their concern over this matter, and is therefore a key issue that will need further consideration regarding its significant complexity, risks and wider implications.

I look forward to further conversations on this matter over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely



Mark Burns-Williamson  
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire