

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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Alan Hardwick

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

By email: Lutfur.Rahman@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
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Dear Home Secretary,

PROVISIONAL POLICE GRANT REPORT 2016/17

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 2015 in which you invite comment on the provisional Police Grant Report 2016/17 setting out force-level allocations of central government funding.

I congratulate you on the settlement that you have secured for the police. Given the current public expenditure constraints, the protection of police funding in real terms over the spending review period provides a clear indication that the government shares with me the intent to sustain an effective and efficient police service into the future.

Real terms protection will only be secured, of course, by the imposition of a further burden on local council taxpayers. In Lincolnshire, local taxpayers already pay a greater proportion of the costs of policing than most others in the country but your proposals require me to increase that burden still further in order to maintain services in Lincolnshire. Informed by the views of local people, I will be giving very careful consideration to my council tax proposals as I develop my budget for 2016/17.

I agree with you that the settlement must not be a reprieve from reform. The further efficiencies from improved and better use of IT, from greater collaboration between forces and other public services and from improving workforce productivity will need to be delivered by the police service as a whole.

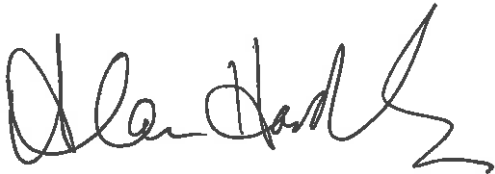
As you know, in Lincolnshire we have been at the forefront of reform to ensure that we operate efficiently to provide the best possible policing services at the least possible cost.

Our private sector partnership, together with extensive collaboration within the East Midlands, have both ensured that we have not only delivered all of the savings required during the last parliament, but also delivered better and more cost effective services for our communities. Lincolnshire remains one of the lowest cost Forces per head of population in England and Wales, yet we continue to deliver performance that is as good as and, in many cases, better than Forces that are enjoy higher levels of funding. There remains much that the service could learn from us.

Your funding formula proposals indicated a shift of resources away from forces with a high cost per head of population towards those, like Lincolnshire, that are more efficient. This has to be the best way of incentivising the service as a whole to deliver the efficiencies that the public rightly expects. Whilst continuing to seek new and innovative ways of improving our efficiency, beyond 2016/17 our ability to maintain policing services will depend upon the delivery of your proposals for a revised funding formula. Your officials have acknowledged that Lincolnshire is underfunded under the old formula and Ministers have said that Lincolnshire has been treated unfairly in the past. My expectation is that this will be addressed when the new funding formula is introduced from 2017. I would therefore urge you to publish without delay the timetable for finalising the new funding arrangements.

As always, Lincolnshire stands ready to work with you and your officials on further refinement of your proposals over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Hardwick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan Hardwick
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire