



Lincolnshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

SAFER TOGETHER

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Date: 15th January 2021
Our Ref: HO-2020-072

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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SW1P 4DF

Kit Malthouse MP
Minister of State for Crime and Policing
Home Office
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By Email: Rt Hon Priti Patel MP privateoffice.external@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
Kit Malthouse MP ministerforcrimeandpolicing@homeoffice.gov.uk
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Dear Home Secretary and Minister

Police Funding for 2021/22

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 2020 in which you invite comment on the Provisional Police Grant report 2021/22.

I welcome your continued commitment to the Police Uplift Programme which is funding 20,000 additional police officers nationally. The Provisional Settlement provides funding for a further 49 additional police officers in Lincolnshire on top of the 50 officers provided in 2019/20. We are on course to achieve our recruitment target at the beginning of 2021/22. If further funding were to become available for Lincolnshire, we would be in a position swiftly to deliver further recruitment having prioritised investment in our training facilities in the County.

I also welcome the proposal to grant 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 must be accompanied by a fair distribution of government grant to ensure that the burden on local taxpayers is proportionate, particularly when households may have other financial pressures as a result of the pandemic. This means addressing the long-standing structural funding inequality of the current resource allocation for central government grant.

For too long, government has based the distribution of Police Grant on historical allocations rather than on evidence; this approach can not be justified and is unsustainable. I do understand that reform of grant distribution is particularly challenging in the context of a one-year funding settlement given the current pandemic. However, I would welcome your commitment and intention to revisit the Core Grant Distribution Review as part of the next Spending Review. In the meantime, 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 a new methodology is introduced.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a thin, light-colored oval border. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Marc Jones'.

Marc Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire