



**POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**  
for Leicester,  
Leicestershire & Rutland  
Your Communities - Your Commissioner

25<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Police Funding**

I am writing to you today to highlight the important issue of police funding. The government announcement late last year on police funding settlement has done little to tackle the systemic issues facing police forces across the county.

While I welcome the 5.7% increase in Government Grant funding from last year, as I have made clear to your Ministerial colleagues on numerous occasions, it is simply not enough to fund the proactive activity of a modern police force. Even after a 5.7% increase, Leicestershire Police have been left with a £9.3million budget deficit. Through difficult decisions and the support of the taxpayers of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, the Chief Constable and I have been able to close the gap to £1million. Last year, we closed an £8.6million deficit. This ever-growing gap between the grant provided by the Government and the cost of the of the service we need to deliver for the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, I'm sure you will agree, is not sustainable.

Your Government also stated that 'all costs arising from changes to National Insurance Contributions' would be included as part of the funding for police. Here in Leicestershire, this is not the case, where in fact the funding from government has fallen £0.3m short of the actual cost to Leicestershire Police. I hope that the Government has taken note of instances such as this and intend on repaying the full cost to Leicestershire Police in due course?

I have surveyed the residents of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, and they have graciously agreed to pay the maximum £14 increase in the Policing Precept of their Council Tax bill to ensure Leicestershire Police can continue to be an effective force for our communities. In fact, they have agreed to pay the maximum increase in precept for the last 5 years. I should not have to rely on the generosity of the hard-working, law-abiding taxpayers of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to fill a funding gap that is created by an archaic funding formula. The Government should also not take that generosity for granted.



I welcome your Government's 'Safer Streets' mission as part of the 'Plan for Change'. I am truly enthusiastic about your renewed commitment to Neighbourhood Policing, delivering 13,000 extra Neighbourhood Officers and a named, contactable officer in every community to name a few measures. I made this clear to the Policing Minister in February this year when I met with her to discuss, amongst other pressing items, police funding. While I was heartened to hear the Minister agreed with me that a multi-year funding deal was their intention, I was left somewhat bemused that the Minister had seemingly become resigned to the fact that the decision on this was to be made by the Treasury. I am not alone in voicing concerns regarding the state of police funding. The decisions PCCs, PFCCs and Chief Constables across England and Wales have had to make to settle the books this year have been some of the hardest we have seen in local government for a generation. I urge your Ministers and Ministerial offices to work together and deliver what is clearly a beneficial move for all parties involved, and will help to deliver your Government's Safer Streets mission.

Let me assure you, my office and I will support you in delivering the Government's missions to the best of our capabilities. Through my office I will support your Government's ambitions by putting in place the capacity to begin a ruthless drive to cut costs, improve value for money and boost efficiency. My office will undertake an exhaustive search for best practice across the UK and internationally to ensure that the people's priorities as set out by you and the Home Secretary can be met as efficiently and effectively as possible. I will also ensure that my office and I continue to engage with the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, listen to their views and priorities to ensure they continue to be put at the heart of Government decision making.

I will play my part. The people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland need the Government to play theirs.

I urge you as Prime Minister to take action. Commit your Government to a root and stem review of the police funding formula this year to ensure that forces across the UK are fairly funded for the demand in their area from 2026-27, and ensure that Police forces across England and Wales are fully reimbursed National Insurance contributions as promised.

Yours sincerely

**Rupert Matthews**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland**



Cc Chancellor of the Exchequer  
Cc Home Secretary  
Cc Policing Minister

Released as an open letter on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025.