



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

25th March 2025

Dear Dame Diana Johnson,

Thank you for meeting with me on 3rd February. I am writing to follow up on our conversations we had at the meeting.

As mentioned in our meeting, I welcome the announcement of the Neighbourhood Policing grant and Government's commitment to deliver 13,000 extra neighbourhood officers. However, I must remind you that to deliver effective neighbourhood policing it cannot fall to one area of the workforce. Although I advocate for additional officers and PCSOs out on the streets, we mustn't forget that to make that possible we need the support of our police staff too. It should be recognised that policing needs a mixed workforce of Officers, PCSOs and Staff and each contribute towards overall policing. Therefore, I urge that you consider this when setting the grant rules for the Neighbourhood Policing grant, Police Uplift Maintenance Grant or any new initiatives that the Government undertake.

I welcome the news that your office will be looking at a multi-year spending review. As you will know commitment of funding is imperative to effective financial management and enables a better approach to financial planning. I am disappointed that you mentioned that the decision of multi-year settlement will be dependent on a decision of the Treasury and urge that you champion on behalf of the police for financial sustainability, increase levels of funding and a fundamental review of the funding formula.

I once again ask that you consider a review of the archaic funding formula for Policing. Leicestershire Police is one of 18 of the 43 police forces nationally that is detrimentally impacted upon due to the funding formula. This creates a further budget deficit, when 25 other forces, receive full funding for their payroll costs and are therefore in receipt of a more beneficial grant.

I mentioned in our meeting the impact of legislative changes on the budgets for policing and the operational challenges this presents. My office would be happy to provide you and your team with any further information on the impact of these legislative changes have on the finances for Leicestershire Police. However, I would draw your attention to a report written by our Deputy Chief Constable, which was presented at our Police and Crime Panel, on the operational implications Leicestershire Police face against a budget deficit for 2025/26 of £9.3m.



<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s188147/Appendix%20%20Operational%20Report%202025-26.pdf>

During our meeting we discussed the current arrangements in place to fund national organisations such as the NPCC and the College of Policing. I ask that this is reviewed as part of the spending review and look to funding these nationally rather than the burden fall on the local taxpayer.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me, and I look forward to hearing from you regarding the points raised above.

Yours sincerely

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

Released as an open letter on 25th March 2025.