



Home Office

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson
DBE MP
Minister of State for Policing, Fire
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Councillor Andrei Czolak
Room 102, County Hall
West Street
Chichester
PO19 1RQ

DECS Reference: MIN/1285775/25

1 April 2025

Dear Councillor Czolak,

Thank you for your letter of 27 February, sharing your concerns on precept levels and the Police Funding Formula.

The Government has now published the final police funding settlement, which confirmed that overall funding for policing will total up to £19.6 billion in 2025-26, an increase of up to £1.2 billion when compared to the 2024-25 settlement. This includes £200 million for Neighbourhood Policing to kickstart the delivery of 13,000 additional police officers, PCSOs and special constables into neighbourhoods. This supports our commitment for each neighbourhood to have a named, contactable officer dealing with local issues. Of this, Sussex Police will receive up to £421.2 million in funding in 2025-26, an increase of up to £26.6 million when compared to the 2024-25 police settlement, equating to a 6.7% cash increase.

As announced at the Local Government Policy Statement on 28 November last year, the Government confirmed a precept limit of £14 for 2025-26 for English forces. This flexibility will result in up to an additional £330 million if all forces across England and Wales choose to maximise the precept limit. I would like to highlight that Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are the locally elected and democratically accountable official for policing in their area, and it is for PCCs to decide how to balance their expenditure on their policing and crime priorities based on their local knowledge and experience – this includes decisions on precept.

The settlement ensures that every local policing body in England and Wales will receive the same percentage increase in their Core Grant, offering funding certainty for forces in setting a balanced budget. I note your concerns regarding the current funding formula which has been inherited from the previous government. Not all Government funding is allocated by funding formula, as other methods are more appropriate in certain circumstances. In 2025-26, this includes the allocation of additional recruitment funding, pensions grant and additional support with employer's national insurance contributions. In addition, the 2025-26 settlement delivers a 4.5% real terms increase in funding for Sussex Police.

To support the delivery of the Safer Streets Mission, broader policing reform is necessary to address the challenges faced by policing and help the system to deliver effective and efficient policing to the public. As part of that work, the allocation of funding to police

forces remains an important consideration. This Government is committed to ensuring that police forces have the resources needed, and phase 2 of the Spending Review provides an opportunity to consider police funding in light of the Government's priorities.

Finally, I recognise that increased financial pressures remain a concern for many forces, and there may be some challenging trade-offs at a local level to set a balanced budget. It remains critical that the sector continues to focus on where productivity and efficiencies can be made. We will ensure the sector, including both the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and the National Police Chiefs' Council, are fully engaged in this process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Diana Johnson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'D' and 'J'.

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP
Minister of State for Policing, Fire and Crime Prevention