



**SUSSEX POLICE
& CRIME PANEL**

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Councillor Andrei Czolak
Chair of Sussex Police and Crime Panel

Via email: johnsond@parliament.uk

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

27 February 2025

Re: Future Funding Arrangements for Sussex Police

Dear Minister,

The Sussex Police and Crime Panel scrutinised the Commissioner's proposed policing precept at its meeting on 31 January 2025. The Panel supported the Commissioner's proposed increase of £14 on a Band D Property, the maximum permissible increase.

However, the Panel recognised that, with core government funding consistently falling year-on-year in real terms, the proportion of Sussex Police's funding falling to Sussex's residents (through their council tax) continues to increase. In 2013/24 the proportion of funding paid by local council taxpayers was 30% of the net budget, but that has now increased to 42% in 2025/26. Panel members are acutely aware of the additional financial burden this has placed on our residents and are of the view that this trajectory is unsustainable in the long-term.

We had understood that a review of the funding formula had been set in motion under the previous government, but the outcome of the review has not yet been announced, and there is no reference to it in the 2025/26 settlement.

The Panel would therefore be grateful to learn how the Government plans to address the various shortcomings in the funding arrangements for Sussex Police, particularly the growing reliance on the council tax precept.

Yours sincerely,

Andrei Czolak

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