



Cllr Roger Croad
Chair, Police and Crime Panel
c/o Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
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By email: Roger.croad@devon.gov.uk

Our ref: PCC_COR_PLN_CROAD_enquiry-offices-RM_140514

14 May 2014

Dear Roger,

I have shared with the Police and Crime Panel the challenges we face in coming years to balance the Force budget and sustain frontline policing. I have pledged to maintain at least 3,000 police officers whilst at the same time achieving savings of £12m by 2017/18. We are exploring all opportunities to identify efficiencies that will support the frontline and prevent crime, support victims and bring offenders to justice.

In line with the requirements of the Police and Crime Plan, the Constabulary has been developing a new Contact Strategy designed to improve the accessibility and service the public should expect from a modern police service. As part of this work, the Force has identified that in many cases Police Enquiry Offices no longer meet the needs of the community as the public seek alternative ways to contact the police. Consequently, the Chief Constable has recommended to me that the number of Police Enquiry Offices (not to be confused with police stations) is rationalised whilst improving alternative means of engagement with the public in ways that are more aligned to their needs. This also means making officers available to spend more time with the public.

The Force is to announce shortly that it will enter a period of consultation with a view to closing twelve Police Enquiry Offices from 31 October 2014. **I would ask that this remains confidential until Thursday 15 May 2014.** Understandably this proposal may generate some concerns in local communities and amongst police staff who are affected. A communication and engagement plan is in place to ensure that we consult widely with those affected and explain the ways that engagement and accessibility will be enhanced in other ways.

I enclose a copy of a joint letter from Shaun Sawyer and ^{me} myself that was sent to partners and stakeholders.

Yours sincerely



Tony Hogg
Police and Crime Commissioner

cc sarah.hopkins@plymouth.gov.uk

Not sure if this issue is not
below our joint horizon but quite
high price so, on balance, I am
notifying the PCB.