



The Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for the Home
Department
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Councillor Tudor Evans OBE
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Labour Councillor for Ham Ward

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Dear Home Secretary

Policing in Plymouth

The Chancellor's Budget on 29 October 2018 disappointed many in failing to deliver any additional funding for Policing except for national level counter-terrorism. Reference was made to a provisional funding settlement in December, but there is no timetable for a comprehensive update to the funding formula that has been deferred since 2015 and now looks set for 2020/21.

A public backlash protesting at the lack of Police resources is backed by authoritative statements about the unsustainability of police funding by the National Audit Office and comments by the Police Federation for Devon and Cornwall highlighting significant increases in recorded crime (up 31% in the past 2 years), alongside the loss of 975 personnel overall including 510 Police Officers (down 15%) and Police Community Support Officer reductions continuing until 2021/22 (down 41%).

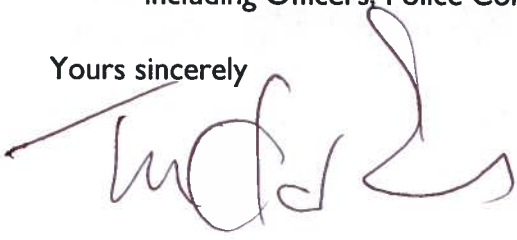
The Police and Crime Commissioner has stated that she is unwilling to ask the Council Tax payers to foot the local bill for a police pensions deficit of £4.4m next year rising to £10m in 2020/21. Meanwhile the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall was interviewed on the BBC on 1 November calling for more government funding and stating that "...the Thin Blue Line is broken" across Devon and Cornwall, and admitted that lives are being put at risk as a direct result of Police cutbacks.

The safety of Plymouth residents is increasingly being put at risk by a critically over-stretched Police Force. I would therefore ask you to:

1. Ensure that government funding is available to cover increased organisational costs to the Devon and Cornwall Police from pension and contractual pay award pressures, both of which should not fall on local Council tax payers.

2. Ensure an uplift in funding for Devon and Cornwall to fully address the crisis in its Policing. The December provisional funding settlement for Devon and Cornwall Police to be at least adequate to ensure an immediate stabilisation of Police Force numbers at current strength, including Officers, Police Community Support Officers and staff.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tudor Evans', written over a horizontal line.

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE
Leader, Plymouth City Council