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Ask for: Anna Taylor
Date: 01.03.24

Dear Member

KENT AND MEDWAY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL - TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2024

Following the Panel meeting the attached letter was sent to the Chancellor and Home Secretary, with a copy to all Kent and Medway MPs and Leaders.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Watts', is positioned above the printed name.

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel

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Sent via email to:
The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP, Home Secretary

cc. Kent and Medway MPs and Local Authority Leaders

Sessions House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XQ

Email: michael.hill@kent.gov.uk
Date: 1 March 2024

Dear Chancellor and Home Secretary,

As required by legislation the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel recently reviewed the Police and Crime Commissioner's Draft Plan and Precept Proposal. These were both supported.

During the meeting Members noted the impact of the national funding formula which disproportionately disadvantages Kent. Members were informed of funding in other areas, specifically where one area has 900 fewer police officers than Kent but received £12m more funding than Kent. The funding formula is clearly out of date, not fit for purpose and does not align to the number of police officers that have been recruited.

The Panel heard that you are due to be consulting on the new funding formula shortly and would urge you to bring this forward as quickly as possible.

Kent Police continues to be chronically underfunded and the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel asks that you fully fund Kent Police and make changes to the national funding formula recognising Kent's unique national position as the gateway to Europe and the infrastructure in the county that supports links to the capital and the rest of the country.

The government continues to support a police funding formula that underfunds Kent Police and means Kent residents are paying more local Council Tax for less local policing. Kent Police received the 11th highest 2024/2025 financial settlement in the country despite having the 8th highest population and the 7th highest number of officers in the country. Despite recent increases, the PCC's council tax is still in the bottom quartile. Kent have had to cut over £90m from the budget since 2016 and faces a further £ 7.3 million of cuts in 2024/2025.

The Panel asks that you tackle the acute financial challenges faced by Kent Police and provide a fair funding formula which does not disadvantage Kent.

Michael Hill, OBE, Chairman of the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel

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