



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

27 August 2013

Mr Tom Cuddeford  
Deputy Chair,  
West Midlands Police Federation  
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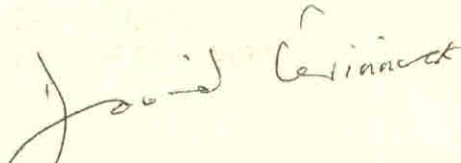
Dear Mr Cuddeford,

Further to previous correspondence, I am now enclosing a predictable reply from the Tory minister to the letter that I wrote on the substantial reduction for policing in the W. Midlands.

Certainly in Mr Green's comments there is nothing that has not been said repeatedly by the present government; nevertheless, I thought you would wish to see the correspondence for yourself.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

  
David Winnick MP



# Home Office

**Rt Hon Damian Green MP**  
**MINISTER OF STATE FOR POLICING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

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David Winnick MP  
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**19 AUG 2013**

*Dear David,*

Thank you for your letter of 24 July to the Home Secretary on behalf of Mr Tom Cuddeford, Deputy Chairman of West Midlands Police Federation regarding the effects of funding reduction on policing in the West Midlands. I am replying as the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice.

The Home Secretary was absolutely clear throughout the Spending Round process for 2015/16 that the police must have adequate funding to continue efforts to cut crime. In addition to making the police a priority within the Home Office, the settlement which she agreed with the Chancellor also protects counter-terrorism policing capabilities, reflecting the ongoing threat to the UK from terrorism.

As you may be aware, 2015/16 central Government funding for the police will reduce by 4.9 per cent or £269 million, compared with 2014/15 – a smaller percentage reduction than the overall Home Office reduction of 6.1 per cent in real terms, and significantly smaller than the reductions agreed for many other public services. Once future police precept income (based on forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is taken onto account, the reduction in overall funding for the police amounts to 3.1 per cent.

I recognise that this reduction will be challenging but the police must play their part in helping to reduce the deficit. The police are already proving that they are

capable of doing more with less: police reform is working and crime is falling. Recorded crime is down by more than 10 per cent under this Government and the independent Crime Survey for England and Wales shows crime at its lowest level since records began. Further reform – led by police at local level, but supported by a new Police Innovation Fund, greater collaboration between the emergency services, and work to reduce the number and cost of police ICT contracts – will enable them to go on cutting crime as budgets are reduced.

Mr Cuddeford expresses concern that central government funding reductions are harsher on West Midlands Police due to its low level of precept. The Government is clear that setting the precept is a matter for individual PCCs, taking into account the views of the local community and Police and Crime Panels. As you may be aware, the Localism Act 2011 sets out a process by which increases in the level of council tax in England, over an 'excessive amount' are subject to a local referendum. This ensures that local people are able to veto an excessive increase in their council tax. PCCs can choose to exceed the excessive limit in their areas but this would trigger a local referendum.

I also note Mr Cuddeford's concerns about damping. As you may know, damping is a means of ensuring stability in funding between years. After considering the responses of an informal consultation on damping, the Home Secretary decided that every police force area in 2013/14 (and in 2014/15) will face the same percentage reduction in core central Government funding. The cash reduction in this funding for 2013/14 is 1.6 per cent. It is important to note that damping is only one part of the police funding picture, which is driven by the Police Allocation Formula (PAF). Until the review of the PAF is completed the Government considers that it would be inappropriate to change existing arrangements.

I hope that this clarifies the Government's position.

Yours,



**Rt Hon Damian Green MP**