



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tom Cuddeford
Deputy Chairman
West Midlands Police Federation
Joint Branch Board
Guardians House
2111 Coventry Road
Sheldon
B26 3EA

Please quote in correspondence:
Our Ref: Wlrh\300713\CUDD01001

Your ref: TC/JL

30 July 2013

Dear Tom Cuddeford,

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE CUTS

Thank you for your letter the cuts to police funding, and the impact on the West Midlands Police Service. I share your concerns about the severe extent of cuts that policing in our region has faced since 2010. Of course in the current financial situation difficult public spending decisions have to be made - but I believe the Government's austerity programme has been pursued too far and too fast, and is damaging frontline public services.

You are completely right to point out that Birmingham and the West Midlands have been disproportionately impacted by the government's cuts to policing, particularly because of the reliance on grant. It simply isn't fair that the West Midlands have lost twice as many police officers as the South East - which has a lower crime rate. We now know that the regions lost 1000 police officers between 2010-2012, with the number of crimes being solved falling by 2.4% in the same period. Unfortunately this Government continues to ignore the clear evidence that budget cuts of 20% are weakening front line services.

You may be interested to know that I have been calling on the Government to rethink their approach to policing cuts - and voted against the Police Grant Report on the 8 February 2012. In this debate I pressed the Minister for Policing, Nick Herbert, on the issue of grant damping and its impact on West Midlands policing. I have enclosed a copy of Hansard for your information.

I just wanted to let you know that I have written to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs to raise this matter with her directly, and I will be following up this issue within

the House of Commons. I would be interested in meeting with you and some of your members in the Autumn to discuss this issue further. Please do contact Lucy Hadley in my office to set up a meeting – lucy.hadley@parliament.uk or 020 7219 2318.

I know that your members continue to work hard despite facing this challenging context for policing. I want to thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns, and for all the hard work you do to protect our community.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden', written in a cursive style.

Richard Burden MP
Birmingham Northfield