



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

Police Funding

Thank you for contacting me about funding for the police.

All law-abiding people agree that preventing and reducing crime and tackling the trauma and anxiety that crime causes are among any Government's most important tasks.

It is, therefore, encouraging that crimes traditionally measured by the Independent Crime Survey for England and Wales, the best measure of crime experienced by individuals and families, are down by over a third since June 2010.

I am delighted that overall police spending is protected in real terms until 2019/20, once local income is taken into account, which will enable the police to continue to adapt to emerging crime threats, and to train more firearms officers, while all the time taking further steps to improve efficiency. Crime has continued to fall since June 2010 with reduced budgets, at a time when many – including the Opposition – said that crime would go up.

The decision to protect overall police spending in real terms over the Spending Review period works out as an increase of £900 million cash by 2019-20. This includes technology and transformation funding, supporting forces to reform and improve efficiency. This funding will also allow forces to train more firearms officers, in order to ensure the country extends its capability to protect its citizens from terrorist threats.

The National Crime Agency's (NCA) budget has also been protected, as it leads UK law enforcement's fight to cut serious and organised crime. In addition, new capital investment of over £200 million will be provided to transform the NCA into a world-leading law enforcement agency, with new digital and investigative capability to tackle cyber crime, child exploitation and the distribution of criminal finances.

This Government has committed to increase overall cross-government spending on counter-terrorism by 30 per cent in real terms, from £11.7 billion to £15.1 billion. This includes funding for an additional 1,900 officers – an increase of 15 per cent – at MI5, MI6 and GCHQ to better respond to the threat faced from international terrorism, cyber-attacks and other global risks. Counter-terrorism police funding has also been protected in real terms over the Spending Review period.

I welcome the fact that local Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are being given the flexibility to increase their funding by up to £270 million in 2018/19 by increasing Council Tax precept by up to £1 a month for a typical householder without the need to call a local referendum. It is clear the police are seeing more complex crime being reported, including previously hidden crimes such as Child Sexual Exploitation and modern slavery, and forces

must respond to the terrorist threat. These represent new demands on the policing, which is why these new funds have been made available.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Whittaker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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