

Please ask for :

Telephone Number: 0121 626 6060
wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk



Our reference:

Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

20 December 2019

Dear Liam

May I offer my congratulations on your recent election to Parliament.

I would like to invite you to a cross-party briefing on policing and security in the West Midlands. The briefing will be led by myself and the Dave Thompson Chief Constable of West Midlands Police.

This briefing will provide the good opportunity for new members to acquaint themselves with the pressures facing West Midlands Police and longer standing members to refresh their knowledge.

You will also have the opportunity to ask me and the Chief Constable any questions about policing in the West Midlands.

The meeting will be hosted by Steve McCabe which will be held from **5pm-6pm** and will take place on **Wednesday 12 February** in the Thatcher Room in Portcullis House.

I would be grateful if you could contact in my
office as soon as possible if you are able to attend this meeting.

For those unable to attend we endeavour to arrange other times in the West Midlands for you to receive a briefing from myself and the Chief Constable at a later date

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Jamieson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'D' and 'J'.

David Jamieson
Police and Crime Commissioner

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Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
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07 March 2019

Dear Liam

Today I announced an increase in officer numbers for West Midlands Police following a wide ranging efficiency programme, which has cut waste, delivered new technology and improved working practices. We have looked at every process and are now able to reinvest these savings on the front line.

Officer numbers will increase by 200 over the next two years. Additional officers will be focussed on tackling violent crime and working closely with local communities. Police officer numbers were due to total 6,539 in 2021, but will now rise to 6,739 and recruitment will begin shortly

West Midlands Police had a stand still budget once increased pension and wage costs are considered, the rise in council tax rise, announced earlier this year, prevented West Midlands Police from shrinking. However, West Midlands Police's efficiency programme has enabled officer numbers to increase.

Savings made from the WMP2020 project have enabled the force to boost police numbers. Despite the efficiencies made by the force, these additional officers will not make up for the more than 2,000 lost since 2010. West Midlands Police has faced cuts to its budget from government of £175 million over the last nine years.

I will continue to campaign for a better funding settlement for West Midlands Police.

Knife crime in the West Midlands has risen by 85% since 2012 and gun crime has risen by over a third during the same period. I recently described the rise in violent crime as a 'national emergency,' and if we are truly committed to tackling this recent rise then we need more police officers however, there also needs to be an investment into youth provision and preventative services.

I am also pushing the government to fund the expansion of the West Midlands Violence Prevention Alliance, which brings together the police, health service and other agencies to take a public health approach to tackling violence.

In the short term, I am also putting together a special grant bid to government to increase capacity this year, to allow West Midlands Police to continue to make an intensive response to violent crime.

Yours sincerely

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Police and Crime Commissioner

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13 November 2018

Dear Liam

I'm pleased to inform you that the government has announced that the West Midlands has been successful in its bid for £1.8m into the Early Intervention Youth Fund to tackle the problem of gangs and violence in the West Midlands. As you will recall we met with the Home Secretary on 12th September to discuss tackling serious violence in the West Midlands and I am grateful to all those who attended the meeting.

The fund, operated by the Home Office, is a £22m pot of money allocated for the next 2 years. I submitted a bid for £1.8m, money received from this fund cannot be spent on police officers.

Some of the areas the money will be used to fund includes mentoring for young people to steer them away from criminality. We will be rolling out Redthread, the organisation which places youth workers in A&E departments to identify those who may have been involved in gang criminality, to three more hospitals. This is in addition to the two hospitals in Birmingham where they are already working.

The bid was made jointly with the Community Safety Partnerships from across the West Midlands. These are groups made up of local public services including councils, health, police, fire services and others whose role it is to work jointly to keep communities safe.

This pot of money will allow us to do more with young people to tackle the root causes of gangs and violence. The money will match the £2m that I have already invested to tackle this issue and we will be working proactively over the next two years to spend this money effectively.

This bid was for the entire West Midlands and it will be spent in all areas to reduce the levels of serious violence amongst young people.

Yours sincerely

David Jamieson
Police and Crime Commissioner

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Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
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22 October 2018

Dear Liam,

Last week police forces across England and Wales were hit with one of the most sudden and alarming announcements with regards to funding by the government putting huge extra cost on to our budget.

The pension revaluation proposal would take £8.6 million out of our 2019-2020 budget. This is as a result of the Government's decision to increase pension costs for police at a cost of £417 million nationally.

A further £13.9 million would be taken out of our budget the following year under the proposals. By 2020/21 the total increased cost will be £22.5 million.

Before this announcement independent analysis has shown that with inflation considered, cuts to West Midlands Police have now hit £175 million.

As well as campaigning for fair funding for West Midlands Police, I am now very concerned about the impact that pensions changes will have upon our finances. The National Police Chiefs Council has stated that changes to pensions could end up costing 10,000 officer posts. In the West Midlands that could result in annual costs of over £20 million a year and around 450 officer posts.

There has seldom been a greater need for Members of Parliament to add their voice to that of PCC's and Chief Constables. This is one of my biggest financial concerns going forward. If common sense does not prevail, I fear officer numbers will end up falling at a time when everyone accepts they need to rise.

These changes to employer contributions will require emergency revisions to our budget next year.

If you would like any further information do get in contact with me. I ask you to raise this issue with Ministers in Parliament owing to the serious effect that this extra budget pressure will have on the safety and security of the people in the West Midlands.

Yours sincerely

David Jamieson
Police and Crime Commissioner

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Our reference: [redacted]



west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

Liam Byrne MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

17 January 2018

Dear *Liam*

I am writing to you, as a local Member of Parliament in the West Midlands to seek your views on in my consultation on the policing precept.

The West Midlands Police precept is the second lowest in the country at just £116.55 per annum (for a Band D council taxpayer) compared to the highest of £224.57 in Surrey.

The government has given me the power to raise the council tax precept by £12 (for a band D property) which the Home Office has said will raise £9.5m. I have been very clear that West Midlands Police needs £22m just to stand still. This increase would still be a real terms cut for West Midlands Police with inflation running at 3% and nationally mandated pay rises for officers and staff that local forces have to fund.

Increasing the precept by this amount will mean the equivalent of 190 officer jobs are protected.

I would appreciate your thoughts on increasing the precept before the end of my consultation on 2nd February 2018.

Should your constituents ask about the policing precept, I also welcome their views through my website which is available through this link goo.gl/6LWJrb

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', written over a circular stamp.

David Jamieson
Police and Crime Commissioner

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Our reference: [redacted]

Liam Byrne MP
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SW1A 0AA

21 March 2018

Dear Liam

Research undertaken by West Midlands Police and my office has shown that West Midlands Police is losing on average £36.85 per application for gun licences, amounting to a total loss of nearly £100,000 per year to the force. Across the country the loss to police forces is over £6.4m.

While I can appreciate the fact that responsible gun ownership is perfectly legal, I do not think hard-pressed police forces should be taking a financial hit to facilitate them. The charges the government set should adequately cover police costs for gun licences and if I was allowed to recover costs on gun certificates I could recruit two extra officers. Across England and Wales savings could increase police officer numbers by nearly 130.

The current firearms charges do not meet West Midlands Police's associated costs from processing the applications and making the relevant checks. The government has also not factored in inflation and increased costs on the police from pay awards in certificate charges.

This would be a small, sensible and easily achievable step for the government to take, and on that could protect officer numbers across the country in a context of increasing strain for police services nationally.

I would urge you to join me in asking the Home Office to reconsider the amount forces can charge for firearm and shotgun certificates as to ensure police forces aren't 'subsidising gun ownership.'

Yours sincerely

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Police and Crime Commissioner

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David Jamieson
Police and Crime Commissioner