



Home Office

Nick Hurd MP
Minister of State for Policing
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Cllr Nigel Ashton
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Dear Nigel,

Thank you for your letter dated 24 July to the Home Secretary regarding resources for Avon and Somerset Police. I am replying as the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service. I am sorry for the delay in my reply.

I note the view of the Police and Crime Panel, under your chairmanship, that in light of recent horrific terrorist attacks, more resources should be available to the police for both Counter-Terrorism (CT) policing and non-CT armed response officers. This Government recognises that it is crucial that the police have the right resources, capabilities and powers to keep the public safe. That is why we ensured that the 2015 Spending Review protected overall police spending in real terms, and announced additional funding for CT policing. For Avon and Somerset, this has meant an increase in funding of £4.5 million in 2017/18 compared to 2015/16.

We are listening to concerns around demand and resources raised by forces. I wrote to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset and other police leaders on 4 September setting out how I will be leading a programme of engagement with the police to better understand the demands, and how these can best be managed. That includes what more can be done to improve productivity and efficiency and make prudent use of financial reserves.

Nick Hurd MP