



JACOB REES-MOGG, MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH EAST SOMERSET

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON
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Cllr. Nigel Ashton,
Chairman of the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel,
Somerset County Council,
County Hall,
Taunton,
Somerset, TA1 4DY.

15 November 2017

Please find enclosed a letter that I have received from Ben Wallace, Minister of State for Security, in response to your letter requesting additional resources for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

I hope that the Minister's letter is helpful in addressing the concerns you raised. I am pleased to read that Mr. Wallace is leading a programme to assess demands on the police and that he is meeting police leaders to discuss this in order to gain a full understanding.

With every good wish,

Enc.



Home Office

Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP
Minister of State for Security

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5 November 2017

Dear Jacob,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 October to the Home Secretary on behalf of Councillor Nigel Ashton, Chairman of Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel, regarding the funding for Avon and Somerset Police. I am replying as the Minister of State for Security. My officials have conducted a thorough search and we have been unable to find a record of your previous letter dated July.

I note the view of the Police and Crime Panel Chairman, 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 recognise that the police face major challenges. That is why I am leading a programme to assess demands on the police and have already met with a number of police leaders to discuss this. It is important to understand current and changing demands on the police as well as the action forces are taking to meet these challenges as much as possible through improving productivity and efficiency.

We keep our preparedness under constant review, and looked again at our response following the terrorist attacks in Paris in 2015. Those attacks highlighted the challenges any country would face managing multiple, concurrent incidents.

The Uplift Programme is driven by a threat and vulnerability assessment, which is led by police. The long term sustainment costs for each additional armed response vehicles will be met entirely by the uplift forces.


Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP