

Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
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24 February 2016

Dear Amber,

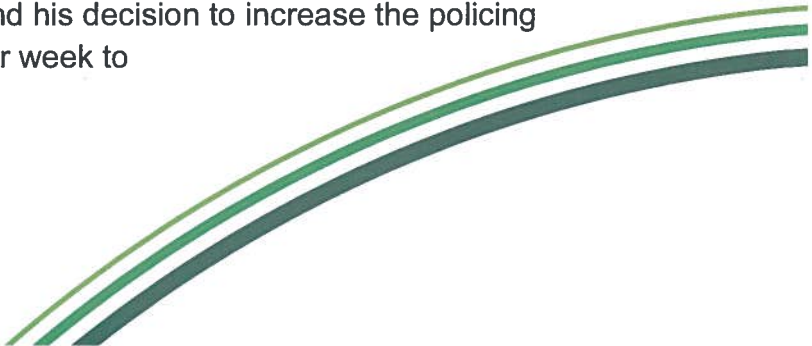
Metropolitan Police Service Funding

I am writing to express my concerns ahead of the expected decision on police funding in March, and the risk that you will seek to divert further resources away from the capital. I would urge you to bear in mind the significant savings the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has, and continues to make, the unique challenge of policing the metropolis, providing national policing infrastructure and the fact that any further reductions in funding will risk the safety of Londoners, including those living in Hackney.

The upcoming decision on the police funding formula is being made against the following backdrop:

- Since 2010 the Met have had to make £600m of savings, with a further £400m needing to be made over the next few years. That's £1bn worth of savings that have the Met is already being required to absorb.
- I would particularly point to the refusal of the Government to fully compensate the MPS for activity due to London's place as a major global capital via the National and International Capital Cities Grant (NICC). The Home Office's own Independent Panel believes this work cost £281m and the MPS estimates £346m. As it stands the residents of Hackney and London provide a significant subsidy to this work, which is only funded to barely half that level.

I hope you join me in supporting the Mayor of London's commitment to the strategic target of 32,000 officers across London and his decision to increase the policing precept in London by an average of 8p per week to contribute towards this –



something his predecessor chose not to do last year, against the advice of his own Government. However, it is also clear that that money will only be sufficient to maintain police numbers at their current level of 31,000ⁱ.

In Hackney we have seen the largest percentage reduction in policing strength in the capital, from around 770 Police Officers in October 2010 to 578 this January (-24.9%). while the population rises substantially. Hackney's population has risen by 33% over the last 15 years and is projected to reach 300,000 by 2024ⁱⁱ. Whilst some roles have been centralised and efficiencies must be made, it would be entirely disingenuous to suggest the policing resource in its reorganised form is of equivalent value or effectiveness compared to six years ago. This is neither the belief of senior Metropolitan Police officers nor the officers on the ground. This is particularly true of the posts taken to the centre.

After many years of dedicated work, and much success, in reducing crime levels in Hackney, I fear a continued fall in policing resources and numbers in Hackney would put this trend at serious risk, damage community relations and the partnership work that underpins them. In recent years we have already seen certain types of crime, particularly offences related to violence and theft, start to increase after long declines. Violence Against Person is up 5.5%, Burglary up 8.9% and Robbery up 2.3%. It is worrying to see that total recorded crime in the borough is up 6.4% on a 12 month rolling figures after so many years of declineⁱⁱⁱ.

I am particularly concerned that our award winning work on gangs and youth violence, through Hackney's Integrated Gangs Unit, will be put at risk if MPS funding is cut further. This type of partnership working between the local authority, police, probation, Department of Work and Pensions and the voluntary sector is an example of best practice, and has resulted in a strong record of reducing gang violence. As a borough we have already had to lobby hard to retain officer resource dedicated to gangs, which has nevertheless reduced from 40 officers to around 20 currently, with a period in late 2015 where this dropped to just six officers. While Hackney will continue to make the case to the Mayor of London and the MPS for these resources, further restrictions on the budget will inevitably put this at increased risk.

I welcome the focus of the Government on issues such as gangs, knife crime and domestic violence. These are issues that have been a core focus of the partnership work of Hackney with the MPS over the last decade. We are very concerned that reductions in Hackney officers and resources will undermine those same priorities.

I would therefore strongly urge you to:

- deliver a fair police funding deal for London, recognising the savings already made and the unique challenges faced in the capital, reflecting that further reductions would put the progress made by our borough in reducing crime and disorder in partnership with the police at serious risk.

- correct the current situation to ensure London is fully compensated via the NICC in line with the recommendations of the Home Office's own independent panel.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Glanville'.

Philip Glanville
Mayor of Hackney

Cc: Mayor Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London
Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
Cllr Caroline Selman, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement
Meg Hillier MP
Diane Abbott MP
Jennette Arnold AM

ⁱ <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/extra-278m-funding-for-met-police-after-sir-bernard-hoganhowe-warns-of-nhsstyle-rationing-a3471011.html>

ⁱⁱ London Borough of Hackney Population: 2001 – 202,800, 2016 - 269,000, 2024 – est. 300,000.

ⁱⁱⁱ Year to date Dec 2016 vs YTD Dec 2015, MPS



