



Home Office

Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP
Minister of State for Policing
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Mr Philip Glanville
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Thank you for your letter dated 24 February to the Home Secretary regarding police funding. I am replying as the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service. I am sorry for the delay.

The Government has maintained protection for police spending in a fair funding deal for policing for 2017/18; forces have the resources they need to cut crime and keep our communities safe.

The Government is maintaining stable funding for police forces. No Police & Crime Commissioner who chooses to maximise precept in 2016/17 and in 2017/18 will face a reduction in cash funding next year compared to 2015/16. Stable funding means essential policing reform and transformation can go further and faster so that we help the vulnerable, cut crime and support our communities.

The Metropolitan Police Service is the best funded force per head of population (save the City of London, which lacks a material settled population). Even excluding funding for the National and International Capital City (NICC) grant and Counter-Terrorism funding (which London receives a very substantial share of), the force is still among the best funded forces in the country per head of population.

The NICC was not fully funded in 2016/17 and 2017/18 in order to ensure that stable funding could be provided for all police forces. The Home Secretary was of the view that it would not be reasonable to reduce funding to other forces in order to fully fund the NICC.

We expect all forces (and indeed all public services) to become more efficient and manage a number of financial pressures each year, and the Metropolitan Police Service should not be exempt from this approach.

I note your concerns about police officer levels in Hackney, however it would not be appropriate for me to comment further on this as decisions regarding the allocation of funding and deployment of officers in London are a matter for the Commissioner and the Mayor of London.



Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP