



Home Office

Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 020 7035 4848
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Karen Leonard
GMB National Officer
22 Stephenson Way
Turner House
London
NW1 2HD

info@gmb.org.uk

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Dear Ms Leonard,

Thank you for your letter of 25 September 2020 regarding baseline police funding. I am responding on the behalf of the Minister for Crime and Policing.

I would like to commend the brilliant individuals supporting forces to carry out their role in keeping our communities across the country safe. To back our sentiments, this year the government set out the largest police funding settlement in a decade which saw a total funding package of up to £15.2 billion in 2020/21, an increase of up to £1.1 billion compared to 2019/20.

This includes £750 million funding to enable the recruitment of 6,000 officers in year one of the three-year Police Uplift Programme and the associated costs surrounding this uplift, including the critical supporting staff. I am extremely pleased with the progress made on recruitment to date, however, the decisions on how to allocate and spend the additional funding and resources ultimately rest with Police and Crime Commissioners.

I recognise that the next three years will be crucial for policing as we complete the Police Uplift Programme. The Department is currently undertaking work on the Spending Review in consultation with policing sector stakeholders. We will continue to make the best case for policing to deliver this Government's top priorities.

Thank you for raising this important matter.

Syed Islam Ali

Efficiency and Resources Unit

Email: Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk