



The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Home Secretary,

### **Three Year Comprehensive Spending Review and Protecting Baseline Police Funding.**

GMB Union has over 600,000 members across all sectors of the UK economy including the police staff workforce. I am writing on behalf of our members across forces covering England and Wales asking you for an outcome for policing from the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) which protects the whole policing team.

Our members are very concerned over the potential for future cuts to jobs and services if baseline funding for policing is not protected in the forthcoming three-year CSR. Across England and Wales, police staff make up forty per cent of the police workforce in a wide variety of essential operational, operational support and organisational support roles. We have members that work in roles such as crime scene investigators, police community support officers, 999 call takers and dispatchers, custody officers, counter terrorism specialists and as members of regional organised crime units, our members are an integral part of the police team.

Police community support officer posts have seen a forty-six per cent reduction across England and Wales since 2010. Cuts that are unfortunately still going on across many of our forces. These officers are often the backbone of neighbourhood policing, so if nothing is done as part of the CSR to stem this loss, we will see an ever-decreasing uniformed presence on our streets.

Since the low point of police cuts in 2016 we have welcomed the Home Office putting the funding in place to ensure a partial recovery in overall police staff numbers. This together with our share of the twenty thousand police officer uplift gives our forces a fighting chance to tackle [the still rising tide of serious and violent crime](#).



But if overall police staff numbers begin to fall again, as a result of an inadequate CSR settlement for policing, the expectation that our share of the twenty thousand police officer uplift will reverse rising crime, will be frustrated. These new officers can only be effective if the team that works alongside them is also adequately resourced. Cut police staff numbers, and history shows that police officers, whom the public expect to be out on the beat tackling crime, will end up doing police staff jobs back at the station instead. I am sure that this is not what you, or the Government would want to see.

If there were to result a flat settlement for policing, there is a big question of how the Government's manifesto commitment to the twenty thousand police officer uplift including the six and a half thousand additional police staff needed to support these new officers - would be squared with the maintenance of existing police staff numbers? The funding for the uplift will need to be in addition to a flat, real terms, i.e. inflation proofed, CSR settlement for baseline police funding just to protect existing police staff jobs and current levels of service delivery.

Given the potential for a return to cuts to jobs and services. We are looking for reassurance that the CSR bid for policing will support the protection of existing staffing levels in the forces, the rebuilding of PCSO numbers, as well as full funding for our quota of the twenty thousand police officer uplift and associated police staff.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Karen Leonard  
GMB National Officer