

Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee



Steve O'Connell AM
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Brandon Lewis MP

Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service
Home Office
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Police funding settlement for London

On behalf of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee I would like to express our concern about the impact of possible future budget reductions for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), and ask you to ensure that London receives a funding settlement that fully reflects its needs.

As you are already aware, as a capital city London faces some unique challenges in respect of policing and crime. Some of these, such as Embassy protection, policing Westminster, and conducting national inquiries are unique to the MPS. Others, such as firearms policing and public order policing, are much more prevalent in London than other parts of the country.

The Home Office recognises these challenges and acknowledges that London requires around £281 million a year in National, International and Capital City (NICC) grant, to meet the additional requirements that come with policing the capital. Despite this acknowledgement, London receives only around £174 million in NICC grant annually. It remains unclear as to why there is a more than £100m shortfall, and no convincing explanation has been given by the Home Office for its decision to underfund NICC.

We understand that the Home Office is preparing to re-introduce changes to the police funding formula. Before proposals to change the formula were abandoned in 2015, the MPS stood to lose anywhere between £180 million and £700 million. The MPS already needs to find £400 million of efficiency savings by 2020-21, on top of the savings it has already achieved. Further budget

reductions of the scale anticipated through changes to the funding formula would put the ability of the MPS to deliver on its public safety promise to Londoners severely at risk.

The implications of a poor funding settlement are clear: namely that savings will need to start being found in the front line, something which, up to now, the MPS has endeavoured to avoid. Some crimes in London, such as theft, serious youth violence and knife crime are starting to show increases.¹ Any change to the successful reduction in crime levels in recent years is likely to be seen as directly correlated to the reduction in funding.

As the London Assembly Budget and Performance Committee recently noted, it is clear that London's policing is now very stretched, with the Met having to balance funding for equally vital local and national policing priorities.² We remain gravely concerned about the combined impact of inadequate NICC funding, and the potential for a poor outcome from changes to the police funding formula. We urge you to re-examine both to ensure that London can deliver a police service that meets the needs of all who live in, work in and visit our capital.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve O'Connell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve O'Connell AM
Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee

cc.
Gavin Barwell MP, Minister for London
Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London

¹ [London Datastore](#)

² London Assembly Budget and Performance Committee, [Response to the Mayor's draft consultation budget 2017-18](#), January 2017