

MAYOR OF LONDON

Keith Prince AM
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

Our ref: MGLA110619-4662

Date: 02 JUL 2019

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your petition presented to the London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting on 6 June requesting more police on the streets of Havering.

The safety of Londoners is my top priority and I am deeply concerned about the increase in crime in London. I agree with the sentiment of the petition and I would like to assure you that I am doing everything in my power to increase police funding to provide more officers on the streets of London.

As you know, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has been forced, by the Government, to make more than £850m in savings since 2013 and will need to make a further £263m by 2021 to make ends meet. This has led to officer numbers dropping below 30,000 for the first time since 2003, the loss of over 3,000 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and 5,000 police staff and the closure of half of the police front counters in London.

I have taken difficult decisions to protect the number of frontline police officers on London's streets – increasing the amount we raise for policing from Londoners' council tax by the maximum amount permitted in law, and reallocating money raised from business rates to policing. This amounts to an additional £234 million in funding for the MPS. City Hall is now paying a greater percentage of the overall police budget in the capital than ever before - up from 18 per cent in 2010 to 23 per cent today. This investment has helped protect 1,000 police officer posts that would otherwise have been lost, thus providing additional resource to frontline policing and making a difference to local communities. Furthermore, this additional investment is supporting us to work towards having 31,000 officers in place by the end of 2019/20.

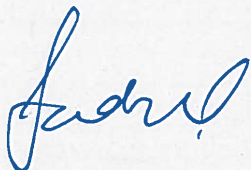
This investment has enabled me to meet my commitment to double the number of officers working in neighbourhoods across London. Whilst under the previous Mayor there was one PC and one PCSO in each ward, who could be abstracted to other duties, there are now two PCs and one PCSO dedicated to each ward in the capital.

However, the vast majority of MPS funding comes from the Government and so I will continue to press the case as strongly as possible for a reversal of their devastating cuts to police funding to make sure our streets and communities are kept as safe as possible. With crime increasing across the country, the Government must step up and provide the resources to allow the MPS and all police forces to effectively fight crime.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Thank you once again for writing to me on an issue that matters deeply to everyone in London. I hope that you will join me, on behalf of your constituents and all Londoners, in lobbying the Government to reverse their cuts to police funding as a matter of the greatest urgency.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London