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Thank you for your email of 11 September about police funding for London. I am sorry for the unacceptable delay in my response.

Regarding the 2017 pay award, those extra costs were affordable from existing police budgets given that 2017 accounts showed that police forces had reserves of around just over £1.6 billion to draw on to manage unexpected costs. Overall police spending had been protected since Spending Review 2015 and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) were clear that the police can go substantially further in making efficiencies.

On 24 July, the Government announced that police officers will receive a consolidated pay increase of 2% in 2018/19. The Police Remuneration Review Body had recommended that the non-consolidated 1% award from 2017/18 should be consolidated, and following that consolidation, a 2% consolidated award to all ranks. Police employers, however, advised that the maximum affordable award would be a 2% increase. This was recommended by both the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC).

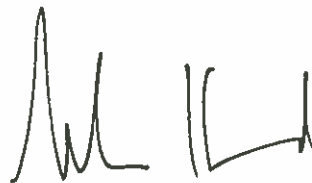
We estimate that police officer pay costs will rise by around £40 million in the 2018/19 financial year following this pay settlement. This assumes that police officer numbers stay the same. That is affordable at a time when force funding is increasing by £280 million this year through Council Tax precept.

You raise a number of concerns around police funding. I will state that we continue to operate in a constrained financial environment brought about by the need to reduce public spending and tackle the deficit. Despite this we protected police funding in 2015 and in the 2018/19 we took steps to increase public investment in the police system by £460 million, including £280 million going directly to Police and Crime Commissioners and elected Mayors through additional council tax precept flexibility. We are working jointly with the police sector on compiling an evidence base for the Spending Review and to provide the resources they need to deliver a modern and efficient service to the public.

We have also ensured that the Metropolitan Police Service has the resources it needs to police London. Funding for the Mayor's Office for Policing Crime in 2018/19 will be over £2.5 billion, an increase of £110 million on 2017/18 through the Mayor using additional precept flexibility that we made available plus also income from business rates. The force also has significantly more officers per head of population (352 compared to the national average of 208).

In addition, we have provided significant financial support to the Metropolitan Police Service to help it meet the costs of unexpected events. In 2017 we provided funding to the force to cover all its additional response costs to the terrorist attacks (£7.7 million). We have also awarded £10.4 million in 2017/18 and £11.4 million in 2018/19 for the response and investigation into the Grenfell Tower fire.

I do recognise that the Metropolitan Police Service is striving to improve efficiency and digital capability and currently has a large transformation in place to achieve that. As the largest force across England and Wales it is important that the Metropolitan Police Service acts as an exemplar to others in providing an effective service to the public.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Hurd', with a stylized, cursive script.

Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP