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## **Nick Hurd MP**

Minister of State for Policing and the Fire  
Service  
Home Office

(Via email)

## **Police funding 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.

We understand it is possible that the Home Office may postpone or cancel its proposals 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. Reductions on this scale, if replicated through any new funding formula proposal, would put the ability of the MPS to deliver on its public safety promise to Londoners severely at risk, and we are hopeful that the Home Office will indeed take the decision not to proceed with a funding formula change.

Stopping proposals to change the funding formula, however, will only go some way to addressing the pressures that the MPS is currently faced with.

The MPS needs to find £400 million of efficiency savings by 2020-21, on top of the reductions in costs it has already made of nearly £600 million. This is a consequence of police funding from central government being allocated on a flat-cash basis. We believe a commitment from the Government to a real-terms increase in funding, which is linked to inflation, rather than a flat-cash budget is necessary to begin to alleviate the pressures faced by forces.

In addition, and 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.

The implications of a poor funding settlement for policing in London 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. We remain gravely concerned about the combined impact of inadequate NICC funding, the absence of a real-terms increase in funding, and the potential for a poor outcome from any changes to the police funding formula. We urge you to re-examine your approach to police funding in London to ensure that it is well resourced as a whole service, and can deliver a service that meets the needs of all who live in, work in and visit our capital.

Yours sincerely

**Steve O'Connell AM**

Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee