



Telephone: 01772 533587
Email: commissioner@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk
Date: 17.12.2020

Dear Kit,

Provisional Police Grant Report - 2021/22

Upon receipt of the provisional police grant report, it is apparent that once again this government is rewarding more affluent areas at the expense of forces like Lancashire. I have been clear in my correspondence with the government that Lancashire deserves a fair deal for police funding and that the burden of any increase in funding should not be dependent on an increase in the Council Tax precept.

Whilst I welcome increased funding for the recruitment of another 150 officers, I was disappointed to learn that once again Lancashire has been given a raw deal in comparison to better off areas such as Surrey. You will note that under your government, Lancashire Constabulary lost 750 officers between 2010 and 2019. In that same period Surrey lost just 8 officers. It is surprising therefore that the government wishes to reward Surrey with a bolstered police force whilst Lancashire has to make do with much depleted numbers in comparison.

We want our Bobbies back on the beat in Lancashire so that we are able to effectively tackle crime and antisocial behaviour and keep our communities safe. The people of Lancashire consistently tell me that they want to see more Neighbourhood Police on the streets; they will not appreciate that Lancashire 450 officers worse off than in 2010 when other areas are seeing sizeable increases.

Your government has mentioned several times how you wish to 'level up' the North. It is clear from today's settlement that this is not the case whilst Lancashire lags behind more affluent areas.

I am adamant that more funding needs to come from government grant and not from further council tax increases. Furthermore a long term plan is required for police funding which addresses the growing pressures on the service instead of one year gifts that paper over the cracks that years of underfunding have caused.

I urge the government to rethink its position and come up with a settlement that is fair for all.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Clive Grunshaw
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire