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By post and email.  
Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP  
Chair, Home Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

23 February 2017

Dear Yvette

### **Home Affairs Select Committee Inquiry into the Future of Policing**

I welcome the decision of HASC to consider the above and to invite interested parties to contribute. I have attached a briefing note put together recently, which covers 3 main areas of interest: Cleveland's needs; Cleveland's resources; Cleveland's efficiency savings & wide-ranging collaborations.

I think it is important for HASC to consider views from a range of perspectives and I support in general terms the submission from the Association of Police & Crime Commissioners.

I have served as PCC for Cleveland since 2012, re-elected in 2016, plus have the benefit of a number of years' experience of working in community safety. This includes as a Middlesbrough councillor for 28 years from 1985; serving as council Community Safety cabinet member; as chair of an award-winning Community Safety Partnership; as Chair of Cleveland's Joint Emergency Planning Committee in the country's most heavily industrialised area; and as a former police authority member.

The evolution of policing is clearly influenced by national policy and legislation, as well as government funding strategy for the service. In Cleveland we are used to doing a good deal more – including growth areas such as around Vulnerability; Cybercrime; Trafficking & Slavery – and with a good deal less – cuts of some £39m or 36% of our budget since 2010.



*The Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland is an accredited Living Wage Employer with the Living Wage Foundation.*

Your committee may wish to consider the migration of locally generated funding into the coffers of Home Office and MOJ and whether such resources - being clearly proportionate to local activity - would be best retained locally to support local community safety activity.

Examples include: Court Fines; Prisoners earnings; Proceeds of Crime.

My perspective on national policy on policing is viewed from 250 miles away from Whitehall and Westminster. I recognise the need to secure the best response to the threats, harm and risks we face and how policing is evolving. I also recognise many of the influences on the evolution of policing are also based a similar distance away – HMIC; the College of Policing; the IPCC; the NPCC.

Some of the experiences of Police Scotland are attributable to the structure which has been adopted. I would caution against developing further large remote policing structures for the future. PCCs and Chief Constables can, and will, make regional collaboration work, rather than regional police forces.

The recent need for large-scale collaborations around Strategic Capabilities, again, mean governance structures evolving which could be some distance away. This is not just a geographical issue.

In my view it is essential there is a healthy counterbalance to all this, in terms of locally-engaged and accountable policing, starting across the force area, and where appropriate working jointly with partners, as I hope the attached briefing demonstrates.

Our communities need that strong local, accountable policing, where key decisions are taken here by PCCs and Chief Constables about what priorities should be and how we address them. I enclose the latest annual leaflet which goes to every household with our local precept - explaining what it is; how it's been arrived at; some of the things we've done with it; and the Police & Crime Plan it is supporting.

I also attach a copy of my recently published Police & Crime Plan, which is also available online at [www.cleveland.pnn.police.uk](http://www.cleveland.pnn.police.uk). Based on 5 priorities on which I was elected in 2012 and re-elected in 2016, on an increased turn-out and increased majority. Crafted through my attending over 420 local community meetings; through me bringing together local partners to discuss and agree priorities, objectives and actions; being implemented through local structures I have helped develop; and through accountability processes likewise, where we monitor progress and any problem-solving.

In Cleveland we have had more than our share of challenges. We have high levels of deprivation – some of the highest in the country – and the social ills that flow from that. But we also have high levels of co-operation and determination.

Our current Chief Constable and his immediate predecessor describe our workforce as some of the hardest working people they have seen in 30 year police careers. We now have the strongest police senior management team in our history, and strength in depth through the force. Our HMIC reports are moving onto an upward trajectory, to the extent we are viewed informally by our lead inspector as a 'success story' within HMIC.

Recently historic issues dating back several years concerning conduct and standards have emerged which have received local and national attention. We have not shied away from tackling these issues and have worked hard to develop new approaches and innovations to ensure the mistakes of the past are not repeated. This work includes researching best practice not only within policing, but also in the wider public and private sector and we have a declared ambition to be national leaders in these areas in the future.

Good, efficient local policing is not only good for people in those local neighbourhoods and communities - it is the building block in tackling organised crime, terrorism, trafficking & slavery and other aspects of the national strategic policing requirement which keeps our citizens safe.

Hopefully the information provided is of interest and value. I wish you and your colleagues luck and success in your work, and if you have any questions, comments or further requirements you will get in touch.

Finally, yourself and/or the committee may wish to consider a field visit, to meet PCC, Force, key partners and see and hear what is happening in practical terms. Chief Constable Iain Spittal and myself would very much support this, assure you of a very warm welcome and be more than happy to arrange an appropriate programme.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Copping', written in a cursive style.

Barry Copping  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland