



**Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
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Your Ref M2006/14

Norman Baker MP
Minister for Crime Prevention
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Mr Baker

Thank you for your letter of 11th March 2014.

I am pleased that you appreciate my concern that the current arrangement forces Police & Crime Commissioners to take money from policing in order to subsidise firearms licensing.

However you do not address my central point that the costs should be met in full and so fees should be determined by PCCs.

I share your view that fees should be appropriate and fair – do you share my view that there should be no subsidy?

Please be assured that my concerns should in no way be interpreted as criticism of those who choose to own firearms. Rather they arise from a desire to mitigate the reduction in number of front line officers necessitated by relentless cuts in budget provision.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Barry Coppinger



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