



Home Office



Norman Baker MP
Minister for Crime Prevention

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Mr Barry Coppinger
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
Cleveland Police Headquarters
Ladgate Lane, Middlesbrough
TS8 9EH

Reference: M3911/14

3 April 2014

Dear Mr Coppinger,

Thank you for your further letter of 18 March about firearms licensing fees.

I appreciate that this is a matter of some concern to you as, indeed, it is to me. To answer your questions directly, I agree that the police should not be subsidising the operation of the firearms licensing system. However, I do not agree that fees should be determined by PCCs. It is an issue which needs a consistent response and this is why it is best determined at national level.

I said in my letter of 11 March it is important for us to achieve a balance between an efficient system and a fair fee level. I know you understand this and an important point is that the full cost of the firearms licensing process will change with the introduction of the new eCommerce system and other efficiencies being made in the licensing process. By streamlining the way licences are administered across police forces, the new e-commerce system will provide us with more accurate costings and a consistent approach.

Please be reassured that we are continuing to work across government and with the police towards a fair fee solution and that this remains a priority for me.

Yours sincerely

Norman Baker MP
Minister of State