



**Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
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5 November 2013

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
House of Commons
London
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Dear Home Secretary,

Dealing with the consequences of CSR 2010 & CSR 2013 and possible implications regarding IPCC funding

I am writing to raise concerns, in particular those expressed to me consistently by members of the public, local councillors and Cleveland Police officers and staff, including PCSO's, regarding the cumulative impact of the government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2010 and 2013 on Policing in Cleveland.

I also wish to raise concerns regarding the potential financial aspects of an enlarged Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), if those costs are to be taken from the Policing budget, in addition to the above cuts being made.

The CSR of 2010 has cut our grant by £15.1m and CSR of June 2013 has taken a further £4.8m. I understand from our recent discussions with civil servants in your department, and via information in Treasury forecasts, there is the potential for a further £3.5m cuts over the financial years 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Given, in addition, the unavoidable cost increases in service provision around pay costs, and other unavoidable cost increases, the overall effect is that Cleveland is now facing around 25% budget cuts over the period 2010-2016.

The Force, the former Police Authority - and now, latterly, myself - during the period since 2010, have worked tirelessly to seek to meet budget savings, including : recruitment freeze of officers via 'A19' regulations; outsourcing business support functions; reducing significant amounts in non-pay expenditure; a root-and-branch review of the Force to introduce a functional model to deliver policing with less officers; a root-and-branch review of the estate, including our HQ; further collaboration with neighbouring forces; reductions of costs in the Force Executive and latterly in the PCC's office.

We note recent developments regarding a national review about police complaints and the further proposed development of IPCC. A strong independent police complaints process is welcome and in all our interests, provided it is funded in a way that does not further weaken policing.

What is not in our interests is if the associated costs are also taken from the policing budget which has been already too heavily drawn-on to support the national austerity policy. I have seen estimates quoted of between £50m - £70m as costs being devoted to an enlarged IPCC (equivalent to between 1,000 and 1,400 police officers).

I am certain the views expressed will be shared by Forces and PCCs across the country. I would urge yourself and your department to draw back from full implementation of CSR 2013 and take some time out to get out and review the potential implications for policing and community safety.

I would urge you strongly to not add even further cuts to the policing budget by funding an enlarged IPCC from within it. If this is a national concern it should be met by the Treasury and considered as a special case.

I look forward to your comments in response. The Chief Constable and myself, as PCC, would invite yourself and civil servants to visit Cleveland to gain a better understanding of the local situation and implications of the CSRs and potential further cuts to fund the IPCC, as well as see and hear of the valuable work going on in our communities on a daily basis to keep the people of Cleveland safe.

I am copying this letter to local MPs and will be asking for their support and assistance in these matters.

Yours sincerely



Barry Coppinger
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

cc Cleveland MPs