



Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
Cleveland Police Headquarters
Ladgate Lane
Middlesbrough
TS8 9EH

Email: pcc@cleveland.pnn.police.uk
Website: <http://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk>

Police and Crime Commissioner:	Barry Coppinger	Tel: 01642 301653
Chief of Staff:	Ed Chicken	Tel: 01642 301653
Chief Constable:	Jacqui Cheer QPM	Tel: 01642 301215

6 December 2013

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Home Secretary,

National Police ICT Services 2014/15 Charges

I refer to the letter from Tom McArthur dated 29 November. It advised me that you would be unilaterally increasing your charges for mandated IT services by £9m nationally or some 15%. This equates to the equivalent of 200 police officers nationally with 2 of these being taken from Cleveland. On top of the proposal to top slice police budgets by over £50m to fund IPCC, and the current top slicing by £50m to create the 'innovation fund' then the pace of Home Office **stealth tax** rises is unprecedented.

Grappling with the reductions in budget caused by the CSR cuts is difficult enough but at least there is some transparency in the process which may then be explained to the public locally. To exacerbate these cuts by increasing the amount we then have to pay back to the Home Office for ICT charges is simply increased cuts by another method and acts counter to the desire to be open and honest with the public. They, and PCCs, deserve better.

Yours sincerely

Barry Coppinger
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

Cc Cleveland MPs