



4th September 2026

The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Sent by email only.

Dear Home Secretary,

Urgent Request for Sustainable Funding for Cleveland Police

We write jointly as the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable for Cleveland at a time of immense challenge for our force and the communities we serve.

The tragic loss of two courageous Cleveland Police officers has left our organisations, our policing family and our communities grieving. Their sacrifice has reminded us all of the extraordinary responsibility carried by those who put themselves in harm's way to protect others, and of the debt we owe to those who dedicate their lives to keeping our communities safe.

We acknowledge your decision to provide £2 million to support Cleveland Police in responding to the immediate aftermath of these devastating events, together with arrangements for additional policing support through mutual aid. While this support is helping us address immediate pressures, it fails to address the longstanding and systemic funding inequalities that have left Cleveland disproportionately underfunded for many years.

The challenges facing Cleveland Police did not begin with these tragic events, nor will they be resolved through short-term assistance. The fundamental issue remains of a funding model that fails to reflect the reality of policing one of the most crime-affected areas in the country.

Every day, more than 1,000 people contact Cleveland Police seeking help, protection and justice. Every day, our officers put themselves in harm's way to protect vulnerable people, respond to serious violence, tackle organised crime and confront those who bring fear, exploitation and harm into our communities.

Cleveland Police serves some of the most deprived and vulnerable communities in the country. The demands placed upon our officers and staff continue to outstrip the resources available to meet them, with teams routinely carrying increasingly complex workloads and responding to trauma, violence, vulnerability and risk. Resilience is one of the defining strengths of our workforce, but it should never be mistaken for unlimited capacity.

The evidence demonstrates that Cleveland is being asked to do more with less than almost anywhere else in the country. There are no police force areas with higher levels of crime than Cleveland that receive less funding than Cleveland Police. There are approximately 40 per cent more crimes per police officer in Cleveland than the national average, and despite this level of demand, Cleveland receives around 35 per cent less funding per crime than the average police force. To bring officer workloads closer to the national average would require approximately 500 additional police officers.

These are not simply statistics. They are stark facts that have a significant impact on our workforce. They represent heavier workloads, growing pressure on workforce wellbeing, victims waiting longer for justice, communities requiring greater protection and public services operating under increasing strain.

The consequences are felt far beyond policing, placing significant pressure on our fire service, local authorities, health and mental health services, children's services, housing providers, schools, community organisations and the voluntary sector.

Behind every crime is a victim, a family, a neighbourhood or a vulnerable person who may require support from multiple agencies. Victims of violence, exploitation and abuse often need assistance from health services, social care, housing providers, schools and community organisations long after police involvement has ended. The impact of crime and vulnerability therefore extends far beyond the criminal justice system.

The challenges facing Cleveland Police are not simply a policing issue. They have consequences for emergency services, public services, the communities that rely upon them and wider economic regeneration of our area. Investment in Cleveland Police is therefore an investment in public safety, stronger communities and economic growth.

The need for additional investment in Cleveland Police has been evidenced to the Home Office over a number of years. The disparity between demand and funding is well established, as are the consequences for communities, victims and public services. A recurring uplift of at least £20 million per year would enable Cleveland Police to recruit, train and retain approximately 200 additional police officers, strengthening our ability to tackle serious and organised crime, protect vulnerable people, restore neighbourhood policing and increase police visibility across Cleveland.

The case for additional support is neither unprecedented nor exceptional. The Home Office has previously recognised circumstances in other force areas that warranted additional recurring financial assistance, providing exceptional funding to police forces across the country in excess of £30 million annually. This demonstrates that additional support can be provided.

Cleveland's case is compelling. We face some of the highest levels of crime, deprivation, vulnerability and demand in the country, yet continue to operate with significantly fewer resources than many forces facing lower levels of need.

The evidence is clear, the challenges are longstanding and the need for action is urgent. What is now required is a funding settlement that reflects the reality of the demands facing our force and the communities we serve.

Our communities are looking for action. While we recognise the Government's commitment to police reform, Cleveland cannot afford to wait for future reviews, reforms or changes to funding formulas. The challenges we face exist today, and they require action today.

The strongest support that can be sent is through meaningful investment that demonstrates a genuine commitment to public safety and to the people of Cleveland.

Following the tragic events of recent weeks, Cleveland is hurting. The loss felt across our force area has brought into sharp focus the risks faced every day by those who dedicate their lives to public service. It has also reinforced a strong and widely held public view that Cleveland Police needs greater investment.

The time for change has come to provide Cleveland Police with the sustainable funding its officers, its partners and its communities deserve.

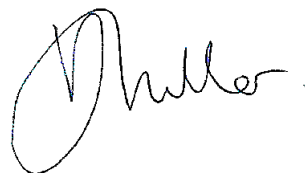
Most importantly, it is time to do the right thing.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at the earliest opportunity to discuss these challenges and the positive difference that sustainable investment could make.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Storey
Police and Crime Commissioner for
Cleveland



Victoria Fuller
Chief Constable of Cleveland Police

Signed in support.



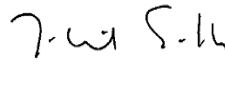
Graham Harrison
Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council



Matt Wilton
Chief Executive, Hartlepool Borough Council



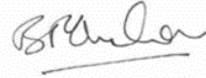
Chris Cooke
Mayor of Middlesbrough Borough Council



Erik Scollay
Chief Executive, Middlesbrough Borough Council



Alec Brown
Leader of Redcar and Cleveland Council



Brian Archer
Chief Executive, Redcar and Cleveland Council



Lisa Evans
Leader of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



Mike Greene
Chief Executive, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



Lord Ben Houchen
Tees Valley Mayor



Tom Bryant
Chief Executive, Tees Valley Combined Authority



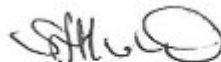
David Coupe
Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority



Simon Weastell
Interim Chief Fire Officer, Cleveland Fire Brigade



Alison Smith
Chief Executive, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley
NHS Foundation Trust



Stacey Hunter
Chief Executive, University Hospitals Tees
Group



Matt Forrest
Chief Executive Officer, Thirteen Housing
Group



Rosemary Du Rose
Chief Executive, Beyond Housing



Mark Davis
On behalf of Tees Valley Infrastructure
Partnership