Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
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22nd October 2026

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

Sent by email only.

Dear Home Secretary,

Government Support for Policing in Cleveland

I write further to your statement to the House of Commons on 1st September 2026 regarding Cleveland Police.

In that statement, you announced an additional £2 million of funding for Cleveland Police with the commitment:

"the Government will continue to work closely with Cleveland Police to ensure that it has all the support it needs…."

Almost two months later, we are yet to receive the additional £2 million of support announced by Government. Neither I nor the Chief Constable have received a substantive response to the representations we have made regarding the force's financial position and resource requirements, nor have we been afforded the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these matters directly.

As I advised in my correspondence of 18th September 2026, costs arising from mutual aid arrangements and the wider policing response were forecast to exceed £4.2 million. Those costs have continued to rise and are now forecasted to exceed £5 million.

These are exceptional and unavoidable costs arising from utterly tragic and devastating circumstances. They are not costs that should be borne locally or met from existing policing budgets. While the organisation's finances are exceptionally well managed, Cleveland does not have the capacity to absorb expenditure of this scale without consequence.

With costs now forecast to exceed £5 million, the impact on available reserves is significant and, if left unreimbursed, would place additional pressure on future budgets and policing resources. Full reimbursement is therefore essential.

Yet the immediate challenge of meeting these exceptional costs should not distract from the wider issue. Cleveland's funding difficulties did not begin with these tragic events and they will not end when these costs are reimbursed.

I am grateful to council leaders across Cleveland, the Tees Valley Mayor, our local Members of Parliament, and leaders from the health, fire and rescue, housing, voluntary and community sectors for the united support they have shown in advocating for fairer funding for Cleveland Police. This reflects a broad consensus amongst key stakeholders that the current funding settlement does not adequately reflect the scale, complexity and cost of policing demand within Cleveland. The case for change is evidence-based, widely supported and long overdue.

As the Government prepares its forthcoming Budget, I welcome the collective efforts of local leaders in ensuring that Cleveland's need for a fair and sustainable funding settlement remains firmly on the national agenda.

I must remind you again that the evidence presented to Government provides a compelling and unequivocal case for action. Cleveland Police 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 that receive less funding than Cleveland Police. There are approximately 40 per cent more crimes per police officer in Cleveland than the national average, yet the force 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 figures demonstrate a longstanding imbalance between demand and resources. They provide clear evidence that the current funding settlement fails to reflect the realities of policing in Cleveland. The case for change is well established and cannot be delayed pending future police reform.

The forthcoming Budget presents the Government with an opportunity to respond to that evidence and demonstrate that Cleveland's longstanding case for fairer funding is being heard.

As the Chief Constable and I have previously set out, Cleveland Police requires in excess of £20 million of additional recurring annual funding if resources are to be aligned more fairly with demand and policing services placed on a sustainable footing.

Given your commitment to ensure that Cleveland Police has all the support it needs, I ask that you now honour that commitment by fully reimbursing the exceptional costs incurred by the force and by using the forthcoming Budget to begin addressing the longstanding disparity between demand, risk and funding in Cleveland.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Storey
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

Cc.

Chief Constable Victoria Fuller, Cleveland Police
Jonathan Brash MP, Hartlepool
Andy McDonald MP, Middlesbrough and Thornaby
Luke Myer MP, Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland
Anna Turley MP, Redcar
Chris McDonald, Stockton North
Matthew Vickers, Stockton South West
Lord Ben Houchen, Tees Valley Mayor
Tom Bryant, Chief Executive, Tees Valley Combined Authority
David Bruce, Leader, Hartlepool Borough Council
Matt Wilton, Chief Executive, Hartlepool Borough Council
Chris Cooke, Mayor, Middlesbrough Borough Council
Erik Scollay, Chief Executive, Middlesbrough Borough Council
Alec Brown, Leader, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Brian Archer, Chief Executive, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Lisa Evans, Leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Mike Greene, Chief Executive, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
David Coupe, Chair, Cleveland Fire Authority
Simon Weastell, Interim Chief Fire Officer, Cleveland Fire Brigade
Alison Smith, Chief Executive, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
Stacey Hunter, Chief Executive, University Hospitals Tees
Matt Forrest, Chief Executive Officer, Thirteen Group
Rosemary Du Rose, Chief Executive, Beyond Housing
Mark Davis, Member of the Tees Valley Infrastructure Partnership