



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO 2015-009

Your request has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and we provide our response below.

You asked:

The issue of police budget cuts is a concern to many people, and I'm trying to gather information on this issue.

As part of this, I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for copies of correspondence (including letters, emails, faxes and similar) between the Police and Crime Commissioner's office and the Home Office in the last six months (from October 1, 2014 onwards) that make reference to concerns about police budget cuts.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act.

Your request for information has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and our response is as follows:

We have identified two items of correspondence that are relevant to this request, both letters from the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Policing Minister, the Rt Hon Mike Penning MP, regarding the review of the police funding formula.

Copies of these letters, dated 26 January 2015 and 26 February 2015 respectively, have therefore been attached for your information.

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP
Minister for Policing,
Criminal Justice and Victims
2 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 4DF

26 January 2015

Dear Mike

POLICE FUNDING

Firstly, I trust my letter finds you well, Christmas must seem just like a blur to you now! I do hope you have settled back in and I wish you all the best in your current election campaign.

Prior to your arrival as Minister, I lobbied Government regarding the funding formula that applies to Dorset. You will be aware that, from a police funding point of view, Dorset is the second lowest funded force. Fellow MPs Oliver Letwin, Annette Brooke and Richard Drax have kindly supported me in this endeavour in various ways, including raising this in the House.

During discussions with your predecessor on 15 May 2013, Damian agreed to my sitting at the table when the funding formula is reviewed by the Treasury. I say this, as I see that Lincolnshire has recently also gained a seat at the table. It is only right and proper that two of the least centrally funded forces are represented in the renegotiations. The formula affects the residents of Dorset disproportionately and I am keen to see change.

I would be most grateful if you could confirm when the Gold Group commences sitting. Damian alluded to this being in June of this year.

Yours sincerely

Martyn Underhill
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner

The Office of the Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner

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Rt Hon Mike Penning MP
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26 February 2015

Dear Mike

POLICE FUNDING

I refer to my letter of the 26 January 2015, relating to your predecessors agreement to my joining the Treasury's review on the police funding formula review taking place this summer.

I look forward to receiving details of the review nearer the time, but I thank you for your comments in the Parliamentary debate on the 10 February 2015, in which you confirmed the position.

Yours sincerely

Martyn Underhill
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner

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