

12<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Councillor M Weston  
Vice Chairman  
Police & Crime Panel, Avon & Somerset

Dear Councillor Weston

I am writing to you as Vice Chair of the Panel and Acting Chair of the Precept Panel meeting on 5 February 2019 and further to your letter dated 6 February 2019.

Firstly I would like to thank the Panel for their overwhelming vote of support for the proposal. I genuinely feel this proposal by enabling additional recruitment of 100 officers above the planned level will enable the Constabulary to make a real difference to local people by bringing additional proactive resource in the areas that concern them most, namely burglary, drugs and knife crime.

I do understand the concerns raised at the panel meeting and in your letter. The proposal is a significant increase in local tax and will further shift the balance of the Constabulary's budget towards local people and away from Central Government grant. This is part of a policy shift made by the Government but I will continue to lobby for a fairer share of overall Government funding for this area and I appreciate the panel's ongoing support with this.

In terms of performance I will continue to make available the link to my publicly available police and crime plan performance reports at the start of my Commissioners Update as I do at every meeting. This information is updated quarterly. On the specific performance reporting against Operation Remedy I will share a proposed benefits and performance plan with you before the next Panel Meeting for your comment. This will include specific measures on burglary. As I said at the meeting I am not trying to defend the current position on burglary and the Chief Constable agrees with this and is intending for performance to improve. We will also provide updates on recruitment of police officers and PCSO's against planned numbers to each panel meeting.

The Panel made their views about seeing Operation Remedy being effective across the force area and especially in rural areas very clear. I have discussed this with the Chief Constable. As you know under the Policing Protocol, the specific deployment of police resources is a matter for him to determine but he does want the Operation Remedy team to operate across the whole force area. He has also offered for specific briefings on local activity to be provided to panel members as Operation Remedy develops and also for panel members to attend specific Operation Remedy operations. If you are agreeable to this I will ask my office to arrange this with your officers.

You refer to rural crime in your letter. I have assumed that the panel are referring to ensuring that the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan and in particular Op Remedy outcomes related to drugs, burglary and knife crime are delivered across the force area including rural areas which the Chief Constable and myself are both committed to. I do not believe that panel members or your letter are requesting a more general prioritisation of rural crime but I thought it best to clarify this.

Thank you in particular for your appreciation of the work of the Constabulary's officers and staff. They have been very resilient in difficult circumstances over the last few years. The police officers and staff are also grateful for your support of the precept proposal and are very positive about using the resources to serve local residents.

Best regards



SUE MOUNTSTEVENS  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for Avon & Somerset

cc. Cllr Martin Wale, Chair of Panel  
Pat Jones  
Julian Gale  
John Smith  
Jo Coulon