

Richard Brown  
Chair  
Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Panel

Sent by e-mail: [R.Brown@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:R.Brown@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Dear Richard

**Response to Police and Crime Panel report dated 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

*Pursuant to Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (“the Act”) and Part 2 of the Police and Crime Panels (Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”)*

I am writing in response to your second report dated 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021 concerning my revised precept for 2021/22. This now concludes the processes set out in the Act and Regulations.

Thank you for the time afforded to me to present and discuss my revised precept with the Panel on 19<sup>th</sup> February. My team and I endeavoured to answer the Panels’ questions at that meeting as fully and openly as possible.

I have reviewed your letter over the weekend with my CFO and CEO and I am grateful for the Panel’s support of my revised precept which will now be issued to billing authorities.

I note the further feedback from your second report of 19<sup>th</sup> February.

In respect of your further comments:

1. I have always been aware and sensitive to the financial hardship our communities are facing at this time and have also listened to the Panel on this matter, which is reflected in my revised precept.
2. I will ensure that, in the handover to the new Interim CEO, they are briefed on the need to work with you in developing the timetable for next year’s budget setting, which will need to include a reserve meeting to manage the possibility of a veto.
3. I am clear on your support for both our local communities and the Constabulary and that you recognise the demands that the Covid 19 pandemic is placing on Policing and the public sector as a whole. I welcome your support to take the Constabulary from an HMICFRS assessment rating of “good” to “outstanding”.

I am also grateful for your support in raising awareness of the disparity in the central funding allocation to the Avon and Somerset territory as a result of the “damping”

effect caused by the current formula. Your continued lobbying of Government and your approaches to Policing Ministers is much appreciated.

Finally, I note your request that the new PCC will commit to providing a standing report on progress with recruitment to each of your meetings. I am sure that this will remain at the forefront of my and the next PCC's strategic objectives.

### **Conclusion**

**Having due regard to the entirety of the Panel's feedback and bearing in mind the case which the Chief Constable and I originally set out to the Panel on 8<sup>th</sup> February, I have determined to now issue the revised precept with an increase of £13.39 for a Band D home, as supported by the Panel. The Band D police PCC precept will be £241.20 in 2021/22 for a Band D home.**

The PCC and the Panel are separate and independent organisations but we have the common aim to set a policing budget that enables an efficient and effective set of measures aimed at reducing crime and disorder and enhancing public safety. I believe the revised precept is a fair reflection of the totality of the Panel's feedback to me, whilst at the same time preserving the strategic initiatives which are funded by the increased precept and underpinned by the uplift in police officers.

The revised precept is below the maximum level announced by the Government and as we discussed at the meeting, will now leave an increased funding gap in the future. It will, however, still support our planned investments next year: more local proactive policing with continuation of locally focused Operation Remedy; enhanced local offender management; and enhanced specialist investigations to tackle the most serious, violent, sexual crimes and exploitation. All of which, I am sure you will agree with me, are essential services to deliver to our diverse communities in Avon & Somerset and better protect the most vulnerable.

Yours sincerely,



**SUE MOUNTSTEVENS**

Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset