

Eddie Hughes MP
Walsall North



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Hon. Nick Hurd MP
Minister for Policing and the Fire Service
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

4th December 2017

Dear Nick

Further to our recent conversations, I am writing to ask for your support for West Midlands Police in their negotiations over the funding settlement with Government. As a former member of the West Midlands Police Authority I understand from personal experience the pressure the police are under.

I have been contacted by concerned residents regarding recent crime in Bloxwich, Willenhall and north Walsall and I want to raise their concerns with you while you consider a settlement for the Force.

I recently met with the local police Superintendent who assured me the police are taking these issues seriously and I was pleased that the police have increased their patrols to reassure local residents. However, West Midlands Police has seen a 27% reduction in central government funding since 2010 and I strongly believe it is time for this to be reassessed, to ensure the hardworking police in the West Midlands are adequately serving my constituents.

I am therefore joining the Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street, in his call to urge you to:

- 1) Allow West Midlands Police to retain any funding generated from the growth in the council tax base in the region - In 2017/18 this would have meant £3.5M in extra funding for the Police.
- 2) Review the central government grant settlement for West Midlands Police in the light of increasing demand for services and the unique challenges of this metropolitan area.

Working all year round for Bloxwich, Willenhall and Walsall North

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3) Allow greater flexibility for West Midlands Police to raise their council tax precept to a comparable level to other parts of the country - Even increasing the precept by £10 would leave the West Midlands with the second lowest level in the country. Currently, the West Midlands precept is £116.55 for a Band D property. This should be dedicated to funding frontline policing.

In addition, I would ask you to impress on the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands the need to ensure that the Walsall Borough is fairly and adequately resourced from any future settlement.

I look forward to working with you on this issue going forward to improve the funding and support that the West Midlands Police Force need.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Hughes'.

Eddie Hughes
Member of Parliament for Walsall North