

# Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey

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Police Funding Consultation  
Police Resources Policy Team

Sent via email to:  
[policefundingconsultation@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:policefundingconsultation@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

5<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are sending you this letter in response to your letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015, which invited further comments on the Government's proposals for introducing a new Police Funding Formula from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

While we welcome the inclusion of an Area Cost Adjustment to reflect regional variations in the policing cost base, as was stated in our response to the first round of consultation, it is difficult to comment effectively on the proposals when there are so many unknown issues that will affect the practical application of the formula. These include setting next year's Precept Referendum limit, the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review on total funding levels and in particular the top slicing that will be applied to the amount that would otherwise have been available for distribution through the new Police Funding Formula, to allow the Government to "improve" National and International Capital City Funding (NICC payment).

Notwithstanding these difficulties we would wish to raise with you two new concerns that we have regarding the revised proposals and reiterate concerns already expressed in the previous Surrey consultation response, which does not seem to have been considered at all in your revised funding formula proposals.

A new concern is, that the logic behind the revised proposal of dividing each forces hectares by the number of bars squared is not explained in any meaningful way. Those forces who have busy urban areas and thriving night time economies, but also have large rural areas to deal with, are unfairly penalised compared with those force areas which are comprised of predominantly built up areas. Under your new proposals, total force areas with the same or similar number of bars can end up with wildly differing funding allocations, with just four forces receiving over 60% of the funding allocated to this indicator and the other 39 forces having to split the remaining bars indicator funding between them. It is difficult to see how applying this indicator in the way proposed is consistent with the Home Secretary's commitment to provide a formula that fairly distributes funding between Police & Crime Commissioners and we would ask you to either consider removing this indicator from the proposed formula or find another way to more fairly distribute this funding stream.

The concern that we wish to reiterate and which we raised in our previous response to the consultation was the fact that on the latest data, approximately 50% of the burglaries committed in Surrey are committed by persons who are resident in other Police & Crime Commissioners Areas. Oxford Economics confirmed as part of the independent study of the funding formula that we commissioned them to undertake, showed that there is clear evidence, across all parts of the country, that there is an increasing likelihood of crime in a local area, where an area of significant deprivation is located between 20 and 30 miles from its borders. It would be relatively easy for the Home Office to apply a weighting to the Population Volume indicator to allow for this important factor by simple reference to the residency of convicted individuals from deprived areas and we would ask you to do this in order to help make sure that the Home Secretary's commitment to devising a fair system for dividing funding between forces is achieved.

In closing we should also pass on to you a funding issue which has been raised with us by several Surrey Members of Parliament, including prominent members of the current Cabinet. Their concern relates to the policing input involved in maintaining the free flow of traffic on the M25 motorway, which is clearly a strategic economic artery of enormous importance, linking the rest of the country with Europe via the channel tunnel route, but is now known for suffering regular problems that lead to frequent traffic jams which

generate huge economic cost penalties for the United Kingdom as a whole. We would ask the Home Office funding team to look at the desirability of including an additional indicator in the revised funding formula to distribute part of available police funding to Police & Crime Commissioners whose forces are charged with having to deal with the challenges that present in policing major strategic transport routes that pass through their areas such as the M25, M60 etc.

We hope that before a final decision is taken of the design of the new Police Funding Formula, that you will give serious consideration to the points that we have raised regarding the revised proposals and will think it appropriate to include our suggestions in the final formula.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Hurley", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

**Kevin Hurley**  
Police and Crime Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynne Owens", written in a cursive style.

**Lynne Owens**  
Chief Constable