



Home Office

Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP
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Rt Hon Anna Soubry MP
House of Commons
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Dear Anna,

Thank you for your letter of 14 February to the Home Secretary about police resources. I am replying as the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service.

I note your concerns about crime and resources in Broxtowe and I am sorry to hear about the incidents involving gangs of youths and violence. Prior to the police funding settlement for 2018/19 being announced, I undertook a period of engagement, where I spoke to every force in England and Wales, including the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), about the demand they face. The Government understands the significant pressures on the police from the terrorist threat, from more victims of high harm, hidden crimes such as modern slavery and child sexual exploitation coming forward and from other types of crimes.

The 2018/19 settlement recognises the demands on forces and gives police leaders the tools they need to respond effectively. The funding settlement provides a year-on-year increase in total police funding of up to £450 million, including a £50 million increase in Counter-Terrorism police budgets for 2018/19.

The Nottinghamshire PCC has chosen to use increased precept flexibility, which will provide an estimated £4.5 million additional funding for Nottinghamshire police.

I can reassure you that public safety is our number one priority and we will continue to ensure that the police are given the resources they need to do their important work.

You also mention your concerns about disclosure in criminal investigations. Compliance with disclosure requirements is vital if there is to be a fair trial, in the interests of the complainant and the accused. The prosecution must disclose any relevant undisclosed material which it is not using as evidence but undermines their case, or strengthens the defence case.

In December, before recent events occurred, the Attorney General launched a wide review of disclosure procedures in the criminal justice system. His review will consider how processes and policies are implemented by prosecution and defence practitioners, police and investigators. This was commissioned following a comprehensive joint inspection of disclosure by HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, published in July 2017.

The review's scope is wide, covering the Magistrates' Courts, and more complex Crown Court cases including sexual offences. It will examine existing Codes of Practice, Protocols, Guidelines and legislation as well as case management initiatives and capabilities across the criminal justice system, including how digital technology is used.

The review will report this summer.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is working with the police to address the findings of the inspectorates' report. On 23 January the Home Secretary and Attorney General wrote to police leaders and the Director of Public Prosecutions, requiring them to provide further details on their progress and plans to implement the recommendations. On 26 January the CPS and National Police Chiefs' Council published a joint National Disclosure Improvement Plan (NDIP) setting out what they have achieved since the inspection and a package of measures to improve how the criminal justice system deals with disclosure. The NDIP is available at:

<http://www.npcc.police.uk/Publication/National%20Disclosure%20Improvement%20Plan%20January%202018.pdf>.

The Government will continue to monitor progress, to ensure that the police and CPS are taking steps to understand and address the issues that have come to light, and deliver on the actions they have committed to undertake.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Hurd', with a large, stylized initial 'S' above it.

Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP