



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our ref: AB/1802

14 February 2018

Dear Amber,

**Crime in Broxtowe**

On Monday evening, I attended a packed public meeting in Stapleford which was called to address a spike in crime in the town. In short, a gang of youths is making the lives of many people a misery. In the meeting, I heard from parents who will not allow their children out after 5pm and others whose cars and other property have been vandalised. There have been other very serious incidents of violence some of which are connected to this group of youths.

The local Inspector, Steve Wragg, attended and spoke extremely well about some of the recent successes he and his officers have achieved. Officials and Councillors from Broxtowe Borough Council also attended and their contributions were much appreciated. We were told for example, of work to curb underage drinking in one particular pub.

However, it was also clear in my opinion, that Inspector Wragg does not have the resources he needs. The number of PCs in South Broxtowe has halved to 3 and our PCSOs have fallen from 13 to 7. Additional strain is placed on our resources because officers are often called to assist in other areas. Crimes are rightly prioritised but a lack of adequate resources means too many are simply not being properly investigated, if at all. I believe this is a problem across Broxtowe.

I am copying in Nottinghamshire's Chief Constable Craig Guildford; I know he has plans to recruit an extra 120 officers which, is very good news. However, my concern is that even with these extra officers we will still not be at the levels of policing we need.

As you will know there is concern about disclosure in criminal investigations and prosecutions. This was a familiar problem when I was at the criminal bar in Nottingham long before I entered Parliament in 2010. But improving the current system will stretch resources even further especially as Nottinghamshire Police has a high number of historic child abuse cases. The amount of material in these cases is considerable and each item must be examined to determine whether it should form part of the prosecution's case, or be made available to the defence. I know there are other pressures on Nottinghamshire Police which I will willingly discuss with you or the Police Minister Nick Hurd.

Stapleford is a lovely town with a strong community spirit, where generation on generation enjoy a good quality of life. However, this sharp increase in crime is blighting the lives of many residents. People appreciate that overall crime has fallen since 2010, notwithstanding the changes to policing. However, there is now a view, which I share, that we need to look afresh at how many front line officers we need not just in my constituency but across the country.

At Monday's meeting I undertook to write to you and I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

**Rt Hon Anna Soubry MP**

**Cc.** Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police, Craig Guildford