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Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE
UK Statistics Authority
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17 March 2016

Dear Sir Andrew,

Thank you for your letter, copied to my department, to The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP in response to his letter to you regarding analysis by the House of Commons Library on the figures contained in the Police Grant Report covering the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years.

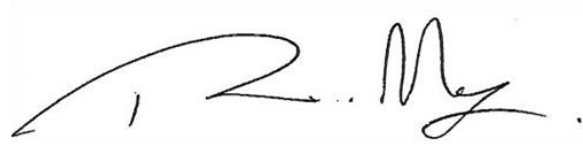
In his Spending Review and Autumn Statement to the House of Commons on 25 November 2015, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that there would be real terms protection in overall police spending over the next Spending Review period.

As you point out, the Policing Minister's Written Ministerial Statement (WMS), published alongside the Provisional Police Grant Report on 17 December 2015, confirmed the position set out in the Chancellor's announcement. To ensure full clarity of the settlement for the police, the profile of overall resource settlement totals – including forecast precept income over the Spending Review period – were included in the Policing Minister's WMS. You confirm in your letter that total police spending will increase from £11,376m in 2015/16 to £12,259m in 2019/20, if PCCs maximise their precept. This is a 7.8% (around £900m) increase in cash terms and no change in real terms over the period.

In your letter, you confirm that the figures quoted by Andy Burnham in his letter to you are not representative of total police spending – that they are one element of total police funding set out in the annual Police Grant Report. I would be grateful if you can confirm that they therefore exclude key elements of police funding, including police precept (worth over £3bn a year) and reallocations for national policing priorities, such as for the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP).

It should be further noted that these figures exclude a substantial amount of additional investment over the period in transformation funding, which, as the Chancellor set out in his Spending Review document, intends to improve police capabilities to deal with modern threats like terrorist firearms attacks and other emerging crime threats.

I hope that you can confirm this further level of clarity on the Spending Review settlement for the police and I thank you for your engagement on this issue

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. May', with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP