

Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP

Shadow Home Secretary

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Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE
UK Statistics Authority
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13 April 2016

Dear Andrew,

POLICE GRANT 2016/17

Thank you for your letter last month. I have seen also your reply to the Home Secretary on the same matter.

Your letters have helped shed light on an important question and subsequently the Government has changed its line.

On Monday, during Home Office oral questions in the House, the Home Secretary and Minister for Policing claimed on six separate occasions:

"...we are protecting police budgets when the precept is taken into account".

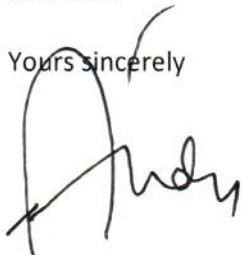
HC Deb 11 April 2016 vol 608 c13

However, it is our understanding that even where local authorities have raised their precept by the maximum permissible amount Police forces still face real-terms budget cuts. For example:

- Greater Manchester Police loses £8.5 million in real-terms from the Central Government Grant and raises £3.5 million from full use of the precept freedoms.
- West Midlands Police loses £10 million in real-terms and raises £3.3 million from the precept.
- Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner has confirmed a budget shortfall of £6 million by 2019/20 even with maximum council tax precept increases.

With this in mind, could you provide urgent advice as to whether the Home Secretary's new position is accurate?

Yours sincerely



Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Shadow Home Secretary