

James Brokenshire MP PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CRIME PREVENTION

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Dear Chair of the Community Safety Partnership,

I am writing to give you more information on today's Spending Review, and to confirm the main implications for the Home Office. The Chancellor announced an overall reduction in Home Office expenditure, which incorporates funding for policing, of 23% in real terms by 2014/15.

While we are doing everything that we can to reduce wasteful spending and will reduce our administrative costs by 33% in real terms over the period, this will not take us far enough in reducing the budget deficit, so we are also looking to police forces to play their part in reducing the deficit by improving value for money. This will be assisted by national police procurement and IT, but without the old constraints of bureaucratic targets and intrusion into local policing which have imposed inefficiency on forces for too long. Core Government funding for police forces will be cut by 20% in real terms by the end of the Spending Review period.

Our approach to law and order is to create a clearer, more transparent and honest justice system, that is more effective in punishing offenders, protecting the public, reducing re-offending, preventing and detecting crime. And we know that the police cannot fight crime alone. We also know how important successful local partnerships are to preventing crime and reduce re-offending.

Police and Crime Commissioners will be in place from May 2012. With their introduction, we want to make Community Safety Partnerships more effective and more accountable and so are considering creating enabling powers to bring together Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) at the force level to deal with force wide community safety issues and giving Commissioners a role in commissioning community safety work.

Throughout the transition period, we will work together with colleagues from across Whitehall departments to support CSPs and other local delivery partners, for instance by removing obstacles to effective partnership working. Partnership will be key to achieving the best possible value for money in delivering community outcomes, and we will work with you to ensure that you are able to achieve this.

This settlement will be challenging to deliver, but the Home Office must play its part in reducing the unprecedented budget deficit, and will do so whilst ensuring that we retain our capabilities to protect the public, secure the border and tackle the terrorist threat.

Detailed decisions on the allocation of budget across the Home Office will be taken in the coming weeks. My officials and I will keep you informed of further developments.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES BROKENSHIRE

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