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MEDIA RELEASE

Government slashes policing grant by further £4.5m (25% from 2010/11-2014/15)

Proposals for the aggregate amount of grant to be paid to Local Policing Bodies announced today by Home Office Minister, Damian Green, reveal a cut by £4.5m.

PCC for Cleveland Barry Coppinger said: "The people of Cleveland should be aware that the Government is saying they are spending £84m of the funds for policing, including £50m on an 'Innovation fund which PCCs and Police Forces are entitled to bid from; along with £18m top-sliced to beef-up the IPCC; and over £9m to provide to HMIC.

"The government are denying £84m of grant to support local policing and are reducing Cleveland's grant by £4.5m for 2014/15 year. This means a 25% cut in our government grant over the 4 years 2010/11 – 2014/15, with more to come.

"The only people in Cleveland celebrating this will be the criminals."

The main grant cut for 2014/15 totals 4.8% and equates to permanent **cash** cut of £4.5m per annum. In real terms this equates to a reduction in grant of 7.2%.

This is significantly higher than the 3.3% cash cut, only announced in June 2013 as part the Spending Review 2013 and provides no time for planning.

While the government has today announced that the overall fund for 'Policing' has reduced by 3.3% there has been a significant amount of top slicing of funds that redirects funding away from PCC's and therefore local policing and local decision making.

PCC Barry Coppinger is arranging to brief MPs in connection with the policing budget during Christmas recess.

cont

Note to Editors

In total, £84m of funding that would have previously been available to PCC's - and therefore to Police Forces - is no longer coming directly to PCC's. This £84m includes the following:

- £50m has been set aside as part of an 'Innovation Fund'. PCC's and Force's are then invited to bid for their money back.
- £18m has **initially** been top-sliced to expand the national Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) – more top slicing will follow over the next 3 years, as this is fully established.
- Over £9m has been removed from local policing budgets to provide to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

The cuts announced today take the total cuts to the Policing Grant in Cleveland to £18m in cash terms since the start of the 'Austerity' measures. In real terms, policing in Cleveland has now seen a 25% cut in it's government grant over the last 4 years with the seemingly inevitable prospect of many more years of further cuts to come.