

Office of the Police and Crime  
Commissioner for Surrey

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PO Box 412  
Guildford  
Surrey  
GU3 1BR

*Sent by email*

E-mail : [surreypcc@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:surreypcc@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

Website: [www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk)

24<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Home Secretary,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 January, giving details of the 2020/21 policing settlement.

After years of reductions in funding, which have had a devastating effect on policing in Surrey, it is good to see that the settlement represents a real increase. Allied to the uplift last year, which allowed me to authorise an extra 100 officers and operational staff in this current year, Surrey Police's financial position gives us the opportunity to start repairing the decade-long damage which austerity has inflicted on the force and the residents it serves.

I can also assure you that every penny will be well spent. Surrey Police are an efficient and cost-conscious force already, and my recently-announced efficiency drive will further ensure that we give value for money.

I have serious concerns however. Using your figures in the accompanying table of your letter, I see that, at a 6.2% increase in funding, Surrey once again has received the lowest settlement of all forces. Even our neighbour Sussex, with whom we share many joint responsibilities, is being given a full percentage point more. This cannot be fair.

The unfairness to Surrey residents goes further: they pay a higher percentage of police funding through their police council tax as compared to central grant than anyone else in the country. The combined effect means that Surrey residents in effect pay significantly more for their policing than anyone else, and your 20/21 settlement does not alter this.

The root cause is the deeply flawed police funding formula. Reforms are constantly being announced and as consistently put back. I urge you to grasp the nettle finally, and announce a root-and-branch review.

Yours sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Munro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**David Munro**  
Police and Crime Commissioner

