

Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner for Surrey

e-mail: surreypcc@surrey.pnn.police.uk
Website: www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk

25 March 2020

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak,
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Dear Chancellor,

Assistance for the Self Employed to enable them to pay their Council Tax

As the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey I have had a number of self-employed residents requesting that I waive or reduce the Police element of the Council Tax they have to pay due to them having no work as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Unfortunately, legally, I cannot reduce the precept Surrey Police has charged within the Council Tax Bills Surrey residents receive, even if I wanted to, as it has already been set and agreed. Furthermore Surrey Police, being the most heavily reliant on Council Tax to fund its services in the country, needs the money to maintain its services at this critical time.

Whilst I applaud the help the Government has given to those in employment and the speed with which it has been implemented I would urge you not to forget the plight of the self-employed. Surrey, as a very entrepreneurial county, has a high number of self-employed people whose businesses and livelihoods are now at risk as a result of this crisis. If they are unable to pay their Council Tax then this will impact directly on our ability to fund and maintain police services not only in the current year but possibly beyond. To put this in to context if only 10% of residents are unable to pay this would reduce our income by £13m or around 5% of our budget.

I realise that the Government has a lot of difficult decisions to make at this time but would ask that the particular issue of financial assistance to the self-employed be considered as well.

Yours sincerely

David Munro
Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey
