

Greater Lincolnshire

Combined County Authority 

From the Office of Mayor Dame Andrea Jenkyns, Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire

The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Secretary of State for the Home Office
Home Office
Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
E: coopery@parliament.uk

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Dear Secretary of State

Having met with the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire this week, it is clear that their financial situation for Lincolnshire Police is completely unsustainable and puts policing our county and the safety of our residents, at risk. I am writing to add my full support to the recent correspondence sent to you on behalf of every Member of Parliament in Lincolnshire.

Concerns about the funds available to Lincolnshire Police have been raised for many years, but as the newly elected Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire, I am bringing this to your urgent attention as the situation reaches crisis point. To attract long-term inward investment in our area, we must ensure that Lincolnshire remains a safe place to live, visit, and do business. This is at risk of being compromised because of a historic, outdated funding formula that disproportionately disadvantages Lincolnshire due to its dispersed population across a large rural county.

As a result of this systemic underfunding of Lincolnshire Police, our area will face significant challenges with cuts to officers, call handlers, and fleet that will have to be made imminently to avoid effective bankruptcy. I understand that short-term financial support was provided for this year, but without a sustainable and reliable settlement, there will need to be significant reductions in frontline staffing to balance the books.

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Lincolnshire already sees just 155 officers per 100,000 people, compared to other rural areas like Cumbria having 275 officers per 100,000 people. We're also in a position where Lincolnshire is only able to afford to employ 72 neighbourhood police officers across our entire geography, where our neighbouring force is able to deploy 80 officers in one town alone. This level of inconsistency of provision must be addressed so that Lincolnshire residents can get a fair deal.

For one of the largest counties in England to have one of the fewest numbers of officers and deliver effective policing would be completely unviable. I therefore call on you to urgently review these arrangements and ensure that Lincolnshire receives the funding that it deserves.

I would welcome a conversation with you about this at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



Mayor Dame Andrea Jenkyns