



**VERA BAIRD**<sup>QC</sup>  
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
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Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to you on behalf of the communities of Northumberland and Tyne and Wear, which I serve as Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria Police.

The issue I want to raise with you is the potential increase cost to forces in relation to Police pensions. I won't go over the details, as I know you are aware of it, but I will say at a national level it is estimated that the additional cost of £165m in 2019/20 equates to the loss of 4,000 police officers. The full cost of £417m in 2020/21 equates to around 10,000 police officers.

As Home Secretary, you know that police forces in England and Wales cannot pay this bill without further severe cuts to front line policing.

This issue needs real leadership to bring about a resolution and I'm urging you to use your office to influence the Treasury to absorb this cost until the next spending review (similar to what has been offered to education). By taking this course of action, it will allow the government the opportunity to look at how it will fund this in future years - without the burden being moved on to the police precept element of council tax.

Policing in Northumbria has been cut to the bone due to cuts of £140 million since 2010, I urge you not to be the Home Secretary that reduces police officer numbers further to pay a bill that should be the responsibility of the Treasury.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes

**Dame Vera Baird QC**  
Police and Crime Commissioner - Northumbria