

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 0AA

Victory House
Balliol Business Park
Benton Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE12 8EW

25th July 2019

Dear Mr Johnson,

Congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister, you now have a unique opportunity to address the problems caused by the continued cuts in both policing and wider public services since 2010.

For the communities of Tyne and Wear and Northumberland, the facts speak for themselves: Since 2010, police funding has been cut by 31% - with Northumbria having to make £142million of cuts. The result has been 1,106 fewer police officers and rising levels of crime.

We cannot go on like this.

Over the last few weeks I have spoken to thousands of local residents from Berwick to Sunderland and everywhere in-between on the campaign to become Northumbria's new Police and Crime Commissioner. The message they have sent loud and clear is that they want to see Northumbria Police properly funded. The people of Northumbria need their 1,106 officers back on the streets.

Governments since 2010 have made the Chief Constable's job even more difficult; cuts have consequences and fewer police officers on the street has been a key contributor to the rise in crime.

But the impact of austerity goes further. Deprivation and health inequality have risen just as crime figures have increased. To reverse this, we must provide people with the vital services that will improve their health, improve their lives and drive them away from crime.

Northumbria stretches every penny out of every pound, we continue to think of innovative ideas to save money and work hard to deliver effective policing that all residents deserve. I'll continue to lead in this way by taking a public health approach to preventing crime, an approach proven to make such a difference in other areas.

As the newest Police and Crime Commissioner, I am appealing to you as the new Prime Minister to look again at both police funding and funding for vital local services as a matter of urgency.

Let us have an open and transparent funding process, with no top slicing of funds, no further cuts and most of all a funding settlement that recognises the unique rural, coastal and urban communities of Northumbria.

If you are serious about delivering change, make ending austerity your number one priority, strengthen our public services and give our communities the chance to once again thrive in a safe environment.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes

Kim

Cllr Kim McGuinness
Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria