

GILES WATLING MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horseguards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

Dear Philip,

**Re - Police Funding Settlement for 2019/20**

Following a meeting with the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, I am writing to you about the Police Funding Settlement for 2019/20, which I understand the Treasury is currently formulating.

I was grateful to the Government for giving Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) the flexibility to increase their Band D precept by up to £12 in 2018/19, without the need to call a local referendum. Additional funding from this policy was set aside for 150 new police officers in Essex.

This decision, despite costing the taxpayer financially, went down very well with my residents and people now expect to see new officers on their streets – I understand from our local PCC that these officers are in training and will join the force between November 2018 and January 2019.

However, there is also now the expectation that these new police numbers will be maintained and not lost to future funding settlements. I would, therefore, be grateful if you could confirm that the flexibility in the Band D precept will be a permanent fixture of future funding settlements. This would allow for additional investment in the future.

On the point of additional investment, I have also written to the Chief Secretary on the matter of police pensions. As you will see from that letter, enclosed, further precept increases are in danger of being used to cover the costs of potential pension changes, rather than to finance planned investments.

The full financial impact of these pension changes on Essex Police would be £9.7 million from 2020/21; with the proposed Treasury support they expect this to be £3.8 million in 2019/20.

This is wrong, and I fully believe that all the money raised from precept increases should be invested in frontline policing. I am pleased to say that all my backbench colleagues from Essex agree with me.

This is what our constituents expect.

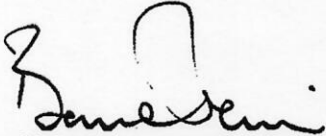
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Giles Watling'.

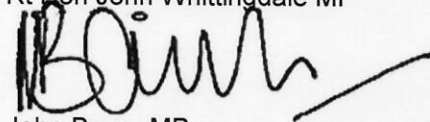
**Giles Watling MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Clacton**

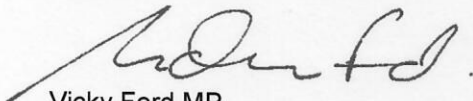
Member of Parliament for Clacton  
Tel: 01255 473 748  
giles.watling.mp@parliament.uk  
www.gileswatling.co.uk



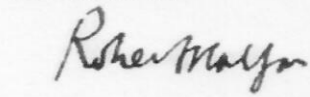
  
Sir Bernard Jenkin MP

  
Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP

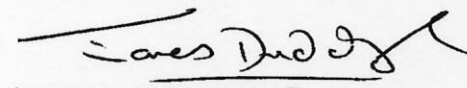
  
John Baron MP

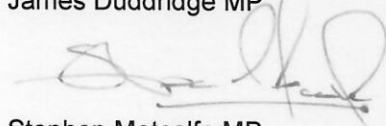
  
Vicky Ford MP

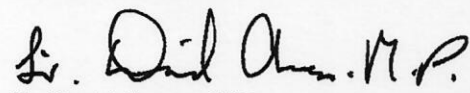
  
Will Quince MP

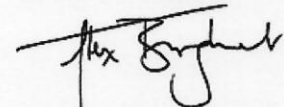
  
Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP

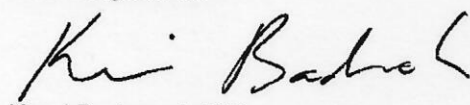
  
Rt Hon Mark Francois MP

  
James Duddridge MP

  
Stephen Metcalfe MP

  
Sir David Amess MP

  
Alex Burghart MP

  
Kemi Badenoch MP