



Home Office

Matthew Rycroft CBE
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Meg Hiller MP
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

14 December 2020

Dear Chair,

RE: 8 October announcement – coronavirus enforcement.

Thank you for your letter dated 19 November 2020 regarding the Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's announcement of the £60m surge funding for coronavirus enforcement on 8 October 2020.

Of that surge funding, the Home Office received £30m which was distributed to Home Office police forces in England and Wales to step up their compliance and enforcement activity of coronavirus rules. This was part of the Government's plans to tackle the rise in infections. This funding was distributed according to police funding formula shares and paid to police forces by 13 October 2020.

A full breakdown of the allocation of funding to police forces can be found on GOV.UK via this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-enforcement-boosted-with-60-million-surge-funding>.

This was new, additional funding that was provided by HM Treasury, specifically to step up coronavirus compliance and enforcement activity. It was one-off and specifically targeted funding that was provided to police forces in addition to funding agreed at the 2020/21 Police Settlement.

As part of the surge funding allocation, the Home Office set out conditions and expectations attached to the funding. The requirements were broken down into two areas; firstly, that police forces provided the Home Office with a local enforcement plan setting out how they would meet the needs of local enforcement requirements with this additional funding. It was for individual police forces to decide how they would utilise the surge funding in their increased enforcement. Secondly, for forces to compile and return to the NPCC weekly compliance and enforcement action undertaken specifically related to Covid-19 activity. This was to enable monitoring of outputs within each force and was shared with the Home Office.

Attached to this correspondence, I include confirmation of the surge funding conditions sent to police forces on 16 October 2020 by Patricia Hayes, Director General, Crime, Policing and Fire Group.

I hope that this letter addresses the Committee's questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Rycroft', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke underneath.

Matthew Rycroft CBE
Permanent Secretary