



The Rt. Hon Theresa May MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

**Anthony Stansfeld**  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
for Thames Valley

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014  
Our Ref: AS/LMR

Thank you for finding the time to see me last Monday. I realised it was a particularly busy day for you. You raised the issue of Thames Valley having higher overheads than other Police Forces in its Most Similar Group (MSG). I did not have all the facts to hand at the meeting, but I was aware that this was not the case.

The HMIC VfM report does explain the reasons, though not very clearly. Firstly we collaborate with 3 other Police Forces and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary on our vehicle fleets. These are run by TVP and we pick up the costs for these other forces as an overhead, though we are reimbursed. Our real costs are below the national average and the same as our MSG, (P34 of VfM). We do have further cuts of £1.1m planned over the next two financial years.

Secondly the profiles show TVP as having higher costs for ICT. The reason for this is that we are the lead for ICT in a collaboration with Hampshire and the costs for both forces are reflected on our books. This is £7m for Hampshire that is reflected on the TVP overhead. Our real costs are below our MSG.

Thirdly our Estates/Central Building Costs. These are slightly higher than our MSG. This is largely because we cover an area with some of the highest property costs in the country. Our entire estates policy has been revised and substantial savings have been made, with about a further £2.5m of savings to be made over the next three years. Overall our costs are about the same as our MSG in what is a higher cost area to operate.

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With most major savings already made the majority of the £45M that we will have to make over the next 3 years will be in police officers and staff posts. Even if we can make a further £10m cut in our overhead, which I somewhat doubt, the remaining £35m that I have to find will be at least 700 posts. That will have a serious effect on the ability of TVP to police our area as effectively as we currently do. Each Local Police Area (LPA) will lose an average of 50 officers and staff. This particularly concerns me in our large urban areas such as Slough, where the police are already stretched in their ability to deal properly with domestic abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

With a fast expanding population in the TVP area the cuts will hit us in some ways more than other forces, though TVP is currently in a slightly better position than smaller forces to cope with this.

Thank you again for seeing me last week, and if you would like to go into more detail than I was able to last time we can arrange to meet in Maidenhead,



The Rt. Hon Theresa May MP  
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**Anthony Stansfeld**  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
for Thames Valley

Date: 13 March 2014  
Our Ref: AS/LMR

Dear Home Secretary

### **Application for Special Grant**

During February Thames Valley Police helped residents deal with major flooding after one of the highest rainfall periods in the region in 250 years. With several hundreds homes falling victims to flooding, residents were in need of aid which was provided by a joint operation co-ordinated by Thames Valley Police.

Thames Valley Police co-ordinated partnership working with the Army, which drafted in 1,000 military personnel across Windsor & Maidenhead, Reading, west Berkshire, Oxford and Abingdon, as well as fire and rescue, the Environment Agency and local authorities.

A considerable amount of work went on across the Thames Valley to alleviate the flooding and put in place measures to help those most affected. Officers ran regular patrols in affected areas, checking on vulnerable people, offering reassurance, crime prevention advice and acting as a deterrent to crime.

Despite our best efforts to minimise costs the operation has, to date, cost £289,668.81 (please see attached breakdown of costs). We are no longer resourcing the affected areas and the Gold and Silver suites are shut. However, there may be some late overtime claims so the total cost will be close to £300,000.

Given the scale of financial cuts the Chief Constable and I continue to have to make in order to deliver balanced budgets in the current economic climate, I would be most grateful if you would consider waiving the normal 1% rule for Home Office special grant assistance and reimburse, in full, the costs that Thames valley Police has incurred in responding to the recent floods.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Stansfeld  
Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley





The Rt. Hon Theresa May MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
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**Anthony Stansfeld**  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
for Thames Valley

Date: 8 January 2014  
Our Ref: AS/LMR

Dear Home Secretary

**Consultation on Provisional Police Grant report 2014/15**

As requested I am responding to the consultation on the provisional Police Grant Report for 2014/15 as published on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

As in previous year's I am unhappy at the late announcement of the provisional grant figures since this has an adverse impact on the local budget setting process and timetable, which is already very tight due to the legislative requirement to present my precept proposals to the Police & Crime Panel by the end of January.

In terms of the settlement itself I welcome the decision to protect the Police from the additional 1% savings imposed on the Home Office in 2014/15 as a result of the Chancellor's autumn statement and will be interested to hear, as soon as possible please, how it is intended to deal with the extra 1% cut in 2015/16.

I do not support the decision to top-slice nearly £83m from core police grant to fund Government initiatives and priorities such as the Police Innovation Fund and expanding the role and remit of both HMIC and the IPCC. As a result of this top-slice Thames Valley's core revenue grant is around £3.3m lower than it would otherwise have been. That is enough money to fund around 90 full time police officers.

I accept that I will have the opportunity to bid for a share of the Police Innovation Fund in due course, but this is unlikely to happen before I have agreed the police budget for 2014/15 and implemented a significant programme of budget reductions in order to balance the budget with a council tax increase of 2% or less. Many of the initiatives in Thames Valley likely to be funded from the Police Innovation Fund are capital investment in new digital technology, rather than ongoing revenue costs.

£18m has been top-sliced to fund a bigger and more powerful IPCC, but I still need to provide the Chief Constable with sufficient funds to operate an effective and fit for purpose Professional Standards Department. If this new role is deemed to be a national priority then it should be funded from new money, not taking it from existing PCC resources.

I do not support the additional £9m funding for HMIC. In all my consultation and engagement with the public of Thames Valley since I took up office in November 2012 I have been encouraged to protect frontline operational policing as far as practicably possible. Not one member of the public has lobbied me for an increase in police inspection. It will tie up my senior officers in more office work, and less management of operational policing.

Finally, I would ask that PCC's be informed of Home Office intentions regarding 2015/16 and 2016/17 funding as soon as possible in order to aid local budgeting and planning.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Stansfeld  
Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley