



## **Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I see from my last Council Tax Bill that the contribution for 'PCC for Thames Valley' has increased by 7% over last year's cost. This is at least double that of any other department (Bucks CC, Aylesbury Vale DC, etc.). Please will you explain why the increase in the PCC charge is so great compared to the others? In particular will you provide an inflation figure for the cost of running just your office (staff, salaries, infrastructure, office facilities, travel, general bureaucracy, etc.) That is to say what is the increase in the cost of running the post of PCC compared to the increase in cost of mainline policing?

## **Response**

I write further to your request under the Freedom of Information Act

Answers to each of your queries is set out below

### **• Increase in policing element of the council tax**

On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 the Policing Minister announced investment in policing nationally by to £450m year on year in 2018/19. However, this level of income is dependent on all PCCs increasing their B and D council tax precept by up to £12 which, nationally will raise around £270m.

In TVP, a £12 increase in council tax equates to a just over 7%. Before implementing this level of increase the PCC decided to consult local council taxpayers to gather their thoughts and opinions. A short on-line survey was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> December with a closing date of Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January. In order to reach as many people as possible, it was sent to:

- All users of TVP Alert – at least 80,000 residents
- All town and parish councils
- All councillors from county, unitary and district councils
- All media in the TVP area via a press release
- Regular social media updates via Twitter

In total, 5,600 people voted, of which 4723 or 84.3% voted yes.

The PCC budget proposals, which included a 7% (or £12 for a D Band Property) were scrutinised and endorsed by the Police and Crime Panel on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018.

Further information on the budget, including a series of frequently asked questions are published on the PCC's website at <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/what-we-spend-and-how-we-spend-it/>

- **Increase in the cost of the PCC's office**

Page 24 of the 2018/19 budget book (please use above link to access it) shows that the cost of running the Office of the PCC increased from £1,012,920 to £1,039,667, a rise of £26,747 or 2.64%.

Total PCC directly controlled expenditure increased from £7.242m to £7.360m, an increase of £0.118m or 1.63%

The overall cost of policing services increased from £392.631m to £405.994m, an increase of £13.363m or 3.4%

This proves that the annual increase in both my office costs, and my directly controlled expenditure, is less than the overall increase in the police budget.

## **Right to review**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

The Chief Executive  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner  
Thames Valley Police Headquarters  
Oxford Road  
Kidlington  
OX5 2NX  
Email: [pcc@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

I trust that this letter sufficiently answers your Freedom of Information Act request. However, if there is requested information which you believe is not included within this response then please email or telephone the writer directly in order that I may try to assist you further.