



**Matthew Barber**  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
for Thames Valley

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The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

Dear Home Secretary,

### **Home Office failure to support Regional Organised Crime Units**

Last year you took the decision to cease funding of the core grant for Regional Organised Crime Units within the Police Funding Settlement. This was a reduction of £26.9m, taken from vital teams who work tirelessly to tackle serious and organised crime threatening our residents.

For the current year the Home Office have provided some additional funding, through reallocating underspends from the National Crime Agency, but only to the level of £24.5m; meaning that local forces across the country are already having to plug the gap of £2.4m in 2026/27.

Your officials have confirmed that they “cannot guarantee at this point that Home Office funding will be found in 2027/28 to plug the gap created by the loss of the ROCU core grant”.

This amounts to a 25% reduction in government funding to tackle organised crime; at a time when Force budgets continue to be squeezed. You have taken the decision to fund only 40% of the cost of new neighbourhood police officers, whilst at the same time taking £99.3m out of the policing budget to fund Police Reform in this year alone – before the new National Police Service has even come into being.

In the Police Reform White Paper you cite organised crime of one of the growing threats to the country, yet the actions of the Home Office are defunding this important area. The complete mismatch between the Government’s stated purpose and the actions your department is taking will put police forces under more financial pressure and risk weakening their ability to tackle organised crime groups.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Barber  
PCC for Thames Valley

Matthew Scott  
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