



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

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Sarah Jones MP  
Minister for Policing & Crime  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF

16<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Minister,

**Crime & Policing Bill: Closure Notices and Closure Orders**

I watched with interest the debate on Tuesday when the Commons were considering amendments from the Lords to the Crime & Policing Bill. At the end of last week, I wrote to you, along with other MPs, regarding Amendment 333 which would have extended the powers of the police and the courts when imposing Closure Notices and Closure Orders.

I helped to draft this important amendment because I believe it would provide the police with the tools needed to help tackle criminal businesses on our high streets. In your own speech from the Despatch Box, you identified the potential benefits of the proposed powers. Of course, I am disappointed that the Government chose to oppose this amendment despite cross-party support, I believe it was a missed opportunity to act.

Nevertheless, I appreciate that the Government's amendment in lieu does at least provide some way forward; by giving the Home Secretary limited powers in this area. I understand from the debate that you intend to consult on this extension of powers.

I would urge you to ensure that this consultation is carried out swiftly, and regulations are brought forward at the earliest opportunity. Many of the provisions included in the Bill were first introduced to Parliament in the Policing & Crime Bill which fell due to the General Election. Many positive proposals have now taken years to reach this stage. In the case of changes to Closure Orders this consultation risks delaying the implementation of powers that could make a real difference on high streets across the country.

I would also ask you to consult on changes to Closure Notices. The Government's amendment did not make provision for regulations to change the duration of Closure Notices, another missed opportunity. This of course means that future primary legislation is still likely to be required in order to enact change. Nevertheless, the Government could be consulting on such a possibility now. In my view the most powerful element of the original amendment was in fact the increase in duration of closure orders. This is the element that allows the police to act swiftly and to reduce some of the pressure on policing and the courts.

In helping to get the right result from these potential changes I would happily meet with you and your officials in order to discuss the original intent and the thinking behind both extending both Closure Notices as well as Closure Orders.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Barber  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley