

The Rt Hon Andrew Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

10th August 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

Potential Early Release of PC Andrew Harper's killers

We have all written separately to you about the proposed early release of Albert Bowers and Jessie Cole who, along with Henry Long, were found guilty of the killing of PC Andrew Harper on 15th August 2019. We are extremely disappointed not to have received any substantive response from Number 10 or the Ministry of Justice to the concerns we have raised.

As we approach the seventh anniversary of the killing of Andrew this weekend, and the petition organised by the Police Federation has passed 879,000 signatures, we would urge you to act now.

It is entirely possible for the Government to frame legislation that would exempt the killers of emergency service workers in line with Harper's Law from the provisions of the Sentencing Act, in the same way it intends to for some other offenders, such as grooming gang offences.

The consequences of this decision extend far beyond one family. This case highlights the impact of the Sentencing Act on public trust in the criminal justice system and is already having the impact of damaging morale within policing. Officers and staff simply do not feel they have the support of the Government.

A solution is possible. It is within reach. It is the right thing to do.

We are all prepared to work with the Government to improve the legislation and ensure PC Andrew Harper's killers are not released early from prison. We would welcome an urgent meeting to assist the Government in bringing some justice for Andrew and his family and for those who dedicate their lives to protecting others.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Barber
Police & Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley



Jason Hogg
Chief Constable
Thames Valley Police



Aileen O'Connor
Chair
Thames Valley Police Federation