



Mr Alan Wright  
By email: alanw47@googlemail.com

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Mr Wright

Thank you for your open letter.

I have been in office since May 2016. In your letter you refer to decreasing policing numbers, however in West Mercia the picture is quite different. During my time in office, I have invested to increase policing numbers by 215. Many of these officers are already in post and by the end of this year, the numbers will be back up to the highest level since 2012.

We await news on the allocation from Government, but the extra officer numbers, on top of those I've already introduced, is welcomed. The public have been clear in wanting to see a more visible policing presence, and this is something I locally and the Government nationally have addressed.

I am reassured that West Mercia Police have the capacity and capability to recruit, train and develop these new officers. The police are currently delivering record levels of recruitment, and I'm pleased to see a regular stream of new officers, with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, joining the force through the available entry routes. As you suggest a key part of this recruitment campaign, has included appealing to transferees from other forces.

Of course experience is valued, and the force have clear plans in place to retain and develop officers in the longer term. I believe this coupled with a large influx of new officers, who can bring a fresh approach, will help to build a more efficient and effective police force, and ultimately make our communities safer.

*Best Wishes*  
*John*

John Campion  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
**West Mercia**