



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Constituent,

I have recently received a lot of correspondence in the form of letters and survey responses regarding crime at local and national levels. It is of great concern to me that residents feel unsafe in their homes in light of a recent spate of burglaries, and the alarm that is associated with rising knife crime nationally. Living just down the road from Brixworth in Pitsford, I too am aware of the effects of rural crime, and the burden this places on the local community.

After collating the responses from the survey I sent out in 2018, I have taken action on behalf of the 68% of respondents who expressed that crime was one of their top three concerns. I am reassured by the creation of a nine officer Force Burglary Team by Northamptonshire PCC which is working with the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), supported by intelligence and forensic resources. £3 million has been ring-fenced by Northamptonshire police under the umbrella of 'Operation Crooked.' As part of this, every burglary victim in Northamptonshire will be visited by a police officer in order to enhance the quality of investigations. In order to address the police officer visibility problem expressed by constituents, I am encouraged to note that more than 200 new officers will be recruited by Northamptonshire Police over the next two years, increasing the Force establishment from 1227 police officers to 1310. This increases the likelihood that Northamptonshire will fulfil its goal of having more deployable officers in the county than the force had in 2010.

With regard to concerns about rising knife crime on a national level, the Government have recently introduced the Serious Violence Strategy. The strategy focuses on prevention and early intervention, aiming to encourage young people to make positive choices. Integral to the strategy is the Public Health Model which is a process designed to facilitate behavioural change across the population rather than solely focusing on high risk individuals. The Home Office have committed £22 million to this over the next two years through an Early Intervention Youth Fund.

In terms of legislation surrounding knife crime, the Offensive Weapons Act which received royal assent on 16th May makes it illegal to possess dangerous weapons in private. It stipulates that dispatching bladed products sold online without verification that the buyer is over 18 is a criminal offence. Furthermore, the introduction of Knife Crime Prevention orders will act as a deterrent to those vulnerable to becoming involved in knife crime. They can be issued to anyone aged 12 or over who is thought by police to routinely carry knives.



The overall strategy is backed by a total settlement of up to £14 billion as proposed by the Government for 2019/20; an increase of up to £870 million compared to 2018/19. Northamptonshire PCC will receive an increase of £9.2 million to their total resource funding, including pensions grant. This is composed of an increase of £1.4 million to their existing government grant, National and International Capital City (NICC) grants, Legacy Council Tax grants, Precept grant, Pensions grant, and is also contingent upon police precept. The policing precept is the part of your council tax you pay towards policing in Northamptonshire. The amount you pay depends on your council tax band. In order to cover the costs of greater police resource provision, the policing precept is increasing. Annual costs are listed in the table below which correspond to bands A-H.

Policing		
Band	Property Value (1991)	Annual Cost
A	Up to £40,000	16.36
B	£40,0001 to £52,000	190.59
C	£52,001 to £68,000	217.81
D	£68,001 to £88,000	245.04
E	£88,001 to £120,000	299.49
F	£120,001 to £160,000	353.95
G	£160,001 to £320,000	408.40
H	Over £320,001	490.08

I trust that these measures outlined above reassure you of my commitment to addressing your concerns. My ongoing communication with Northamptonshire PCC to tackle local issues raised, coupled with national Government strategy aims to maximise the safety and well-being of all citizens. If you have any further questions regarding this or other matters, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**