



# Police Service of Northern Ireland

Office of the Chief Operating Officer  
Police Headquarters  
65 Knock Road  
Belfast BT5 6LE

Mervyn Storey  
Chair of Justice Committee  
Northern Ireland Assembly  
Room 242  
Parliament Buildings  
BELFAST BT4  
3XX

14 February 2022

Dear Mervyn

## **POLICE DRAFT BUDGET 2022-25**

Thank you again for the invite to discuss the implications of the Draft Budget with the Committee last Thursday.

As explained to the Committee, a key contributing factor to the implications of a flat cash settlement on policing is that the baseline budget does not adequately reflect the cost base. As a result, a flat budget represents a real deficit, as any in-year allocations previously provided are set aside.

This is an underlying structural problem with the way policing is funded here and this is an issue we have been striving to resolve but without success. Even in the current year, an early in-year allocation was provided to help grow headcount. Although this was welcome, it perpetuated yet further the dependence on non-recurrent and unsustainable funding.



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To help illustrate this point further, I thought it would be helpful to provide the Committee with a short table (at Annex A) comparing the police budget in 2021-22 to the draft budget proposed for 2022-23.

This table clearly shows the extent of dependence on in-year allocations, leading to the disproportionate impact of a proposed flat baseline. This deficit is stark even before factoring in pay/price inflation or new pressures. It is also important to note that Justice (including Policing) did not receive any General Allocations as part of the budget process.

In summary, the pressures facing the police budget are very real and the support of the Committee in both understanding and communicating the scale of the challenge would be welcomed.

I trust this additional information will assist the Committee in their deliberations.

Kind Regards

**PAMELA MCCREEDY**  
Chief Operating Officer

## Annex A

|                      | 2021-22    | 2022-23    |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| Opening budget 20-21 | 719        | 719        |
| Security Funding     | 31         | 31         |
| EU Exit              | 10         | 10         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>760</b> | <b>760</b> |



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|                                      |            |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 2% reduction                         | -          | (14)       |
| Staffing allocation                  | -          | 14         |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>760</b> | <b>760</b> |
| <i>In year allocations:</i>          |            |            |
| May - staffing allocation            | 12         | -          |
| May – Covid, legacy inquests, Gillen | 9          | -          |
| June monitoring                      | 8          | -          |
| January monitoring                   | 11         | -          |
| <b>Closing budget</b>                | <b>800</b> | <b>760</b> |