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REFORM OF THE POLICE FUNDING FORMULA

Thank you for your letter of 27 March requesting further details on the Police Core Grant Distribution Review.

Policing partners are playing a major role in shaping this Review. The sector has been fully engaged in this Review since October 2016, at both a strategic level (Police and Crime Commissioners - PCCs - and chief constables sit on the Senior Sector Group) and technical level (police finance experts sit on the Technical Reference Group).

I have invited PCCs and chief constables to meet with me to discuss the Review – 26 have taken me up on this offer to date. On my visits to forces across England and Wales we have discussed the Review and the feedback has been consistently very positive. The sector has welcomed the open and constructive conversation.

Last week the chair of the Technical Reference Group, Professor Tim Holt led a discussion at the Senior Sector Group about how the model is being developed. This discussion included an update on work being undertaken by Bristol University.

This six-month period of engagement with the sector will put us in a good position to take informed decisions on whether and when to propose a new formula. No new formula will be introduced without a public consultation, which would be informed by the advice received through the Review. Details of any consultation will be set out in due course and cover a range of issues, including transitional arrangements.

Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP