

Chris Cook
Chairman of the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel
County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN11YL
5 August 2025

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP
Minister of State for Policing, Fire and Crime Prevention
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP,

I am writing on behalf of the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel to express our deep concern regarding the persistent funding challenges facing Lincolnshire Police.

One of the Panel's core responsibilities is to ensure that community needs are met as effectively as possible and that public confidence in policing is maintained. This includes reviewing the police budget. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the financial and performance issues affecting Lincolnshire Police, the Panel has held multiple meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable. We have also met with His Majesty's Inspector Roy Wilsher following publication of the PEEL inspection report and representatives from CIPFA following their financial resilience review of Lincolnshire Police.

While the short-term stabilisation funding of £5.7 million from the Home Office was appreciated, without additional support and a long-term funding solution, Lincolnshire Police will be forced to reduce officer numbers by 186 (from 1,186 to 1,000) and police staff by approximately 180 (from 1,112 to 932). These reductions could significantly impact vital areas such as frontline response, neighbourhood policing, and investigations, as well as having an impact on valuable partnerships. It is clear that the current situation is already affecting public confidence and staff morale, and further cuts to resources would exacerbate these issues and raise serious concerns about the safety of Lincolnshire's communities. The current situation is unsustainable, and we strongly urge the development of a lasting solution.

The safety of Lincolnshire residents remains the Panel's highest priority. In the interest of the public, we respectfully call on you to address this critical funding issue as a matter of urgency. Without a sustainable resolution, Lincolnshire risks reaching a point of crisis.

Yours sincerely

Chris Cook

Chairman of the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel