

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY **Response to Ministerial Announcement on Funding**

Date Issued 27 March 2008

The Leicestershire Police Authority today (Thursday 27 March) received a letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) informing the Authority that the Minister has commenced the process which could lead to the Authority being 'capped'.

Byron Rhodes, Chairman of Leicestershire Police Authority, stated:

"We are disappointed with the Minister's decision to designate Leicestershire Police Authority. However, we welcome this invitation to discuss our circumstances with the DCLG and Home Office Ministers prior to a final decision.

We will be studying the decision and looking to present the most compelling case possible for a budget increase. We will agree our response at the Authority's meeting on 10 April 2008.

Leicestershire Constabulary is recognised as one of the most efficient Forces in the country and over recent years the Authority and the Force have done everything possible to avoid exceeding the cap. Raising the public's contribution to the budget by 15.43% amounts to a 41 pence increase on last year, bringing the cost of policing to the average Band D household to £3.08 per week. If an increase of 5% had been applied, the average household would have been 28 pence per week better off, but would have fewer police officers on the streets. In addition to visible policing, the demands on the service posed by child protection, terrorism, the evolution of serious and organised crime, and drugs related criminality are great.

The Force must have the resources to be able to rise to these ever increasing challenges whilst ensuring adequate protective services to the public and maintaining neighbourhood policing across the communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

The Police Authority's decision to increase the precept for the coming year is a consequence of the loss of government grant. Over the 5 years 2006/07 to 2010/11 the total grant lost is £15.2m."

The Police Authority is required to respond to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) by 16 April 2008.

.....ENDS.....

NOTE TO EDITORS:

1. Capping process in brief: STEP 1 – Minister serves Notice to cap, Step 2 – Authority has 21 days to serve Notice objecting to the cap, Step 3 – Minister decides whether to cap, if so, the Order confirming the capping limit needs the approval of the House of Commons.
2. Mr Rhodes' photo can be downloaded from the Leicestershire Police Authority website: <http://www.leics-pa.police.uk/about/members/>

3. Leicestershire Police Authority monitors the Leicestershire Constabulary, which polices the area of Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland.
4. Police Authorities are independent bodies made up of local people. Police Authorities hold the Police Force to account on behalf of local communities.
5. Local Police Authorities along with the Home Secretary and Chief Officers of Police make up the tripartite relationship which is responsible for the governance of policing in England and Wales.