



## Peter Taylor - Liberal Democrat Elected Mayor of Watford

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Rt. Hon Suella Braverman KC MP  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Dear Home Secretary,

### **Re: Police Resources in Watford**

I am writing to you regarding policing in Watford and in particular ensuring that policing is funded properly so that they have the resources they need to solve crimes and keep residents and visitors safe.

Watford is a large and growing town within Hertfordshire. With a busy High Street, a hospital with one of the two A&Es in the County and many visitors from across the UK and the world, Watford has particular challenges that require special consideration when police resources are allocated across the County. This is something I have raised previously with Hertfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner.

I am proud that in Watford the council, the police, community groups and the Police and Crime Commissioner work closely to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. Our proactive approach, in implementing the community trigger which gives more of a voice to victims of crime, for example, is testament to that close working relationship. The relatively low level of crime overall in Watford is also evidence that working together can help keep residents safe.

However, there is a growing perception of an increase in crime and many residents have told me that they no longer feel safe in some areas. Having met many dedicated police officers in my time as Mayor, I know that this is not down to a lack of police effort. What is really important is the level of funding available.

As someone who runs a public sector organisation, I know how difficult it has been to deal with budget pressures coming from inflation over recent years. The police have suffered the same pressures and have at the same time seen crime become more complex and expensive to prosecute.

I am pleased that the government has sought to reverse the cuts to police numbers through the uplift programme and I am also pleased that police pay has risen this year, albeit below the rate of inflation. Unfortunately, without full funding, the pressure of pay, added to the rising complexity of crime, will put great pressure on the local police services and will leave residents less safe.

I hope that you can look again to find more funding for our great police officers so that we can build a Watford where everyone feels safe, more criminals are caught, and victims receive justice.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Taylor  
Elected Mayor of Watford

CC: David Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire