

PRESS RELEASE



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ACPO ARE WRONG ABOUT POLICE GRANTS

The Chair of Hertfordshire Police Authority, Stuart Nagler has hit back at comments made by Dr Tim Brain, the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire and the ACPO lead for finances.

In a letter to Police Review, Mr Nagler explained that he was “missing the point” to highlight the difference in increases to police grant.

Stuart Nagler said: “The real problem with the current police grant system is that many authorities are having large amounts of their grant withheld as a result of the Government’s floors and ceilings mechanism”.

Hertfordshire Police Authority is one of the worst affected by the mechanism. It received a grant increase of 2.97%, which is £3.7m below its entitlement. The money saved by Government applying the ‘ceiling’ to Herts and other authorities, is being used to ensure that all forces received a minimum 2.5% increase this year, despite already receiving more than their police grant allocation. Government’s policy is to move towards police authorities receiving their rightful grant through varying the amounts of increase each year.

Stuart added: “Whilst I welcome the Government’s approach, the pace is too slow. Hertfordshire is losing out on over £3m of its rightful police grant. For Dr Brain to suggest that those forces with higher increases are able to invest at the expense of those limited to 2.5% is just wrong. Rather than highlighting division he would be better placed making the case for the full implementation of the police grant for all authorities.”

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Notes for editors

- The Hertfordshire Police Authority is responsible for setting the police budget and policing priorities. It set its Revenue Budget for 2009/10 at £184.9m, an increase of £6.7m on last year. This represented a precept increase of 4.5%. Despite this increase it is likely that staff numbers will fall by about 40 over the course of the year.
- By the end of the current comprehensive spending round Hertfordshire will still be receiving approximately £3m less than its full police grant

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