

2019/1037

Your wrote:

Dear PCC,

This is Peejay Almajar and I am a student at Newcollege. I am doing a research on the effectiveness of police patrol here in Wiltshire. Using the Freedom of Information act, I would like to ask you 2 question regarding this topic.

1. Can you state that the Police patrol in Wiltshire have increased due to the crime plan for 2018/2019/2020
2. Have the funding for Police Patrol increased? If so by how much?

Response:

Both questions have been addressed as follows:

Police officer numbers had been falling since government austerity and the capping of the local policing part of council tax (policing precept).

Following increased flexibility for 2019/20 the PCC consulted with the public to increase the police precept by £24 per annum for the average property (Band D). The average (Band D) precept increase to policing in Wiltshire went up from £182.28 per annum in 2018/19 to £206.28 per annum in 2019/20.

This enabled the PCC to recruit an additional 41 police officers, as shown in 2019/20. This additional money also secured a new Digital crime team which focuses on online fraud and child sexual exploitation, as well as a £500,000 funding boost to crime prevention with a particular focus on early intervention targeting those at risk of committing crime in future.

2016/17 - 1003

2017/18 – 961

2018/19 - 934

2019/20 – 975\*

In addition the Prime Minister and Home Secretary on 9 October 2019 announced additional funding of £750 million to support forces in England and Wales to recruit up to 6,000 additional officers by the end of 2020 to 2021. As part of this Wiltshire will now recruit an additional 17 police officers in 2019/20. So the revised 2019/20 Police Officer numbers will be 992\*

In 2020/21 The current government have committed to increasing police numbers further. We anticipate this will mean Wiltshire Police officers will return to at least 2016/17 levels.

I trust the above information is of some assistance to you. Should you require any further information or guidance, please, do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon.