



Home Office

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP,  
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Jack Dromey MP  
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Dear Jack

Following a Parliamentary Question (34314) from the Hon Member for Birmingham, Erdington Jack Dromey MP, my attention has been drawn to a response I gave in the debate about the Police Grant Report on 10 February 2016 (Column 1594). In the debate I stated that there are more operational police officers on duty now on the frontline than there were in the past.

I must inform the House that my reply was factually inaccurate, for which I apologise. However, I must also tell the House that I did not intend deliberately to mislead and what I had meant to say is that a greater proportion of officers are on the frontline than in the past.

For clarity, there were 113,134 officers in frontline roles on 31 March 2015, 12,665 less than at 31 March 2010, when there were 125,799 officers in frontline roles. However, the proportion of officers in frontline roles has increased over the same time period, from 88.9 per cent at 31 March 2010, to 91.6 per cent at 31 March 2015.

Decisions on the size and composition of the police workforce are operational matters for Chief Officers working with their Police and Crime Commissioners and taking into account local priorities. What matters is how officers are deployed, not how many officers there are.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House

Regards  
Mike

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP