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Baroness Harris of Richmond
House of Lords
London
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4 June 2019

Dear Baroness Harris,

Thank you for raising the important issue of Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) resources during the House debate on 22 May 2019.

I acknowledge your long standing interests in policing matters throughout the UK and how far policing in Northern Ireland has come since the Belfast Agreement was signed in 1998. Therefore, please let me assure you that this Government remains unstinting in its admiration and support for the brave men and women of the PSNI and their efforts to keep people in Northern Ireland safe and secure.


Policing is a devolved matter and the PSNI's main budget is allocated by the Department of Justice (NI) from the Northern Ireland block grant. Precise spend of this budget is an operational matter for the Chief Constable.

The Secretary of State maintains regular contact with the Chief Constable. This Government has provided the PSNI with additional resources to help tackle the SEVERE threat from Northern Ireland Related terrorism; this includes £230 million of additional security funding over the course of the 2010 Parliament and £160 million during this spending round.

In addition, and as part of the Fresh Start Agreement in 2015, a further £25 million of funding was provided to support the Northern Ireland Executive's tackling paramilitarism programme - a key funding stream for the PSNI's Paramilitary Crime Task Force (PCTF).

In December 2018, the UK Government also provided the PSNI with £16.5 million to help them manage pressure and contingencies arising from EU exit preparations. We will continue to work closely with the PSNI on funding related to Northern Ireland-specific policing challenges.

These challenges in NI are another reminder of why we need the Executive back up and running to demonstrate leadership at the highest levels, work towards a shared society and ultimately keep people safe. The Secretary of State will continue to work tirelessly with the NI parties to achieve this and welcomes your continued support.

Kind regards


LORD DUNCAN OF SPRINGBANK
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND