



Home Office

Lord Sharpe of Epsom
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of
State

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Lord Paddick
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

10th January 2023

Dear Lord Paddick,

During the debate on the Public Order Bill on Tuesday 13 December, you asked the following question:

“The National Police Chiefs’ Council has decided that there should be specified numbers of level 3 and level 2-trained units of one, three and 18—one inspector, three sergeants and 18 constables—as the requirement nationally. To what extent have police services fulfilled those requirements? The indication that the Minister gave was that that is the target that the National Police Chiefs’ Council has given, but to what extent have police forces been able to fulfil that target?”

There is a national capacity requirement of 297 Police Support Units (level 2 public order trained officers) and 234 Basic Deployment Units (level 3 trained officers). A Police Support Unit consists of one inspector, three sergeants and 18 constables as well as three drivers with protected personnel carriers. A Basic Deployment Unit consists of one inspector, three sergeants and 18 constables with no specific driver requirements.

The NPCC have confirmed to the Home Office that across England and Wales there are currently over 18,000 level 2 trained officers and over 61,000 level 3 trained officers. This exceeds the national requirements.

This excess capacity ensures a high level of confidence in the ability to mobilise the necessary specialist resources when required. Mobilisation is regularly tested at force, regional, and national level.

You also queried the training of special constables as level 3 and level 2 public order officers. Due to the voluntary nature of the special constabulary, they are not included in the figures quoted above and are not considered when assessing whether the national capacity requirements are met. Having said that, all special constables are trained and held to the same standards and requirements as their regular counterparts.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House Libraries.

Sharpe of Epsom

**Lord Sharpe of Epsom
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Home Office**