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Good afternoon,

Last week I was elected as our regions new Police and Crime Commissioner and from Thursday 13th May I formally took on the powers of the PCC role.

I have often stated that I wish to be a People and Communities, Police and Crime Commissioner.

It is therefore one of my first tasks to write to members of the public and organisations to let me know what your priorities are for policing and criminal justice.

I will draw up a new Police and Crime Plan to set out the people's priorities for my three year term of office. The plan is a legal document required by law and in order to shape the plan I intend to listen to what the public and other agencies views are on the priorities.

A PCC's term is normally four years, but the pandemic delayed last May's voting by 12 months.

As the West Midlands PCC I am responsible for setting the police budget and have the power to raise some funds through Council Tax, but most of West Midlands police's budget comes from central government. Over the last decade that budget was cut by £175 million and saw the number of officers at the force shrink by a quarter.

I have already committed to ensuring 450 new police officers are recruited and serve local communities across the region. I also want to crack down on knife crime and domestic abuse. But my Police and Crime Plan will set out a much wider range of policy objectives so it is important that I first hear the views of the public before writing it.

I am writing to you and your network directly because I know you may share some of my key concerns and ambitions. In order to truly understand what change is needed, I believe it is crucial for people to tell me exactly what problems and concerns they have, so the policing plan becomes a "People's Plan."

As your PCC I am calling for your views and evidence on the main themes set out in my manifesto:

Building stronger communities

- Fair funding for policing
- Community policing
- Protecting victims of crime
- Mental health and policing
- Neighbourhood crime
- Preventing children and young people becoming victims or offenders
- The Strategic Policing Requirement

Tackling violent crime

- Combatting violence against women and girls
- Honour based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Reducing violent crime including knife crime
- Tackling drug dealing, supply and use

Delivering a safe economy

- Modern slavery
- Business Crime
- Fraud
- Roads Policing
- Exempt accommodation and houses in multiple occupation

A more equal police service

- Equality, diversity and human rights
- LGBT+ policing
- Criminal Justice System
- Stop and Search
- A police service representative of the community it serves
- Supporting public events

Better policing for all

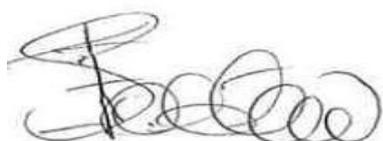
- A green police force
- Valuing the whole police team
- Multi-agency working in partnership
- Police stations and the police estate
- Supporting a policing service
- Social responsibility

For a more accountable police and crime commissioner

- Police governance and the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Accountability of the Chief Constable
- Accountability, democracy and participation

The call for evidence will end on Monday 10th June and a full consultation on a new Police and Crime Plan will then follow in due course. People and organisations can submit their views by clicking [here](#)

Yours sincerely



Simon Foster
Police and Crime Commissioner