



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

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POLICING IN COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON

During the recent National Election Campaign, a variety of interpretations were made by candidates regarding the policing levels of Durham Constabulary.

As a matter of public reassurance, the Police Authority considers that it is now not only important, but indeed essential, to provide an outline of the actual position surrounding police numbers.

“Front line policing in County Durham and Darlington has remained at a constant level over the last 10 years and in fact shows a significant increase when compared to 12-13 years ago” said Peter Thompson, the Chair of the Police Authority.

Durham Constabulary and Durham Police Authority (the independent body which scrutinises the Police Force) have for some years looked closely at the most effective and efficient way of delivering the police service throughout the force area of County Durham and Darlington.

As part of their collective responsibility to provide and to deliver a modern and efficient force, every effort has been made to civilianise warranted officer posts at a cost benefit to the Council Tax payers of County Durham and Darlington. This modernisation programme has enabled a great many officers to be released for front line duties and has also enabled additional non-uniformed police staff to be recruited for back office work. This is reflected in the figures below:

	Police Officers	Police Staff	PCSOs	
Year	FTE			Total
1997	1464	612	0	2076
1998	1512	620	0	2132
1999	1568	597	0	2165
2000	1564	602	0	2166
2001	1599	606	0	2205
2002	1622	616	0	2238
2003	1660	624	10	2294
2004	1697	612	27	2336
2005	1719	754	67	2540

2006	1708	689	142	2539
2007	1638	733	162	2533
2008	1597	846	172	2615
2009	1514	984	172	2670

“It specifically needs to be emphasised that personnel levels overall have increased year on year and there has been no reduction in front line policing” Mr Thompson added.

Effectively, by introducing the measures that we have, we believe that, together with the Chief Constable, we have delivered a much more vibrant and effective policing service. We have by our collective efforts reduced the costs to the Council Tax payers in our communities in 2010/11 by £1.639m.

We are now moving forward with a positive outlook. The Police Authority and Constabulary both feel that it is important to be clear on this as we begin to tackle the financial challenges that lie ahead.

Notes to Editors:

Durham Police Authority is an independent body responsible for ensuring Durham Constabulary delivers an efficient and effective police service. It is made up of 17 local people who include 9 councillors and 8 members of the public who are the independent members.

The Authority ensures that the Constabulary is accountable to the people of County Durham and Darlington and ensures that citizens have a say in how they are policed.

The Authority is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget for the Constabulary and, following consultation with local communities, mapping out the strategic direction of policing. This includes agreeing policing priorities and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher.

The Authority’s Vision

“To ensure that policing in County Durham and Darlington is fair, effective and visible”

The Authority’s Mission

“To be the effective voice of our communities in securing the delivery of high quality policing by:

- Exercising strong & effective leadership
- Engaging positively with communities to build confidence in local policing
- Strengthening partnership working
- Promoting equality, tolerance & respect for human rights

- Scrutinising and challenging police performance to secure continuous improvement
- Scrutinising and challenging business systems and processes to ensure effective use of resources

For further information or comment, please contact:

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