



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

3 August 2009

Mr. Bernard Hogan-Howe,
Chief Constable,
Merseyside Police,
Canning Place,
LIVERPOOL,
L1 8JX.

Dear Bernard

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER
(PCSO) ESTABLISHMENT**

I am concerned to learn of a proposed significant reduction in the number of PCSOs serving the Sefton area. I appreciate that the reduction in the establishment is attributable to reductions in partner funding from Sefton Council but it does seem to me that the proposed establishment of 58 PCSOs (56 "core", and 2 partner-funded) is less than fair.

From a recent report to the Merseyside Police Authority I note that the proposed PCSO establishment would be as follows:

Knowsley "core"	63
Liverpool "core"	119
Sefton "core"	56
St. Helens "core"	61
Wirral "core"	70

Total "core"	369
Other (incl Merseytravel)	19
Partner-funded	78

TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT	466



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I have compared the above "core" PCSO establishments to the share of the 2001 Census populations for the five District Council areas and there do seem to be some significant anomalies.

Allocating the "core" establishment of 369 in proportion to population, I note that the proposed number of PCSOs is over or under by the following amounts:

Knowsley	22.3 no. OVER (55% OVER)
Liverpool	0
Sefton	20.7 no. UNDER (27% UNDER)
St. Helens	13.0 no. OVER (27% OVER)
Wirral	14.6 no. UNDER (17% UNDER)

I appreciate that population numbers will not be the only basis on which to allocate PCSO numbers, but it does seem to me that some of the variation shown above is much greater than I would have expected; for example, why is Sefton 27% below its (pro rata) allocation of PCSOs, whereas St. Helens is 27% over?

I would be grateful if you would review the proposed establishment of PCSOs in the light of my above comments, with a view to allocating an increased number to Sefton.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN PUGH MP

Cc Cllr Simon Shaw, Member, Merseyside Police Authority