

**BLAKE STEPHENSON MP**  
Member of Parliament for Mid Bedfordshire



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

**John Tizzard**

Police & Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire  
Bridgebury House  
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters  
Woburn Road  
Kempston  
MK43 9AX

Dear John,

**Re: Bedfordshire Police & Crime Plan**

Thank you for your email setting out your evolving Police & Crime Plan for Bedfordshire and for the opportunity to feed back to you on its priorities.

Tackling crime across our rural communities in Mid Bedfordshire is so important to ensuring that our area remains a fantastic place to live, work and spend time. As Mid Bedfordshire's Member of Parliament, I want to work with you to ensure that our towns and villages do not get overlooked in your plans for local policing and share equal priority with Bedfordshire's larger towns.

With that in mind, I would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss further how we can work in partnership to tackle anti-social behaviour, violence against women and girls, speeding, fly-tipping, wildlife crime and other serious crimes in our rural communities.

Residents in Mid Bedfordshire have told me about the importance of visible community policing in our towns and villages. Seeing the police out and about in their communities makes people feel safer and I believe that it is important that we do more to promote community policing over the coming years.

In order to achieve everything we would like to and keep residents safe, I understand the importance of ensuring that our local police have the resources that they need. I welcome the progress that has been made so far – with record police officers on the streets of Bedfordshire under the previous Government. I look forward to working with you to improve the funding formula for Bedfordshire, unlocking further resources which will allow our police to do even more; whilst ensuring we retain best value for taxpayers in Mid Bedfordshire.

Given the points above, I would appreciate some clarity on the below points – either by response or in future drafts of your Police & Crime Plan:

- 1) Your plan refers to an equitable distribution of police resources across urban and rural areas. Will you commit to working with me to ensure that Mid Bedfordshire's towns and villages have a visible police presence and that we aren't overlooked in favour of Bedfordshire's larger towns?
- 2) Your plan does not have a specific mission regarding rural crime and policing. Given that Bedfordshire remains a predominantly rural county of smaller towns and villages, as well as beautiful countryside, would you consider an additional mission looking at particular rural challenges?
- 3) There is very little in your plan regarding road safety and speeding. Do you have any plans to address these issues which are an important part of keeping residents safe?

Thank you again for the opportunity to feed back on your Police & Crime Plan and I look forward to continuing our discussions as the Plan develops. In the interests of transparency, I will be publishing a copy of this letter in the public domain.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blake', with a large circular flourish on the left and a horizontal line underneath.

**Blake Stephenson MP**  
Member of Parliament for Mid Bedfordshire