

# NRCN

## National Rural Crime Network

**STRICT EMABRGO – until 00:01 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

### **National Rural Crime Network launch the ‘*rural policing matters*’ campaign**

Julia Mulligan, Chair of the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) and Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, has today launched the Network’s ‘*rural policing matters*’ campaign.

Research from the NRCN, which will be released next month, shows trust in policing is much lower than residents of urban areas, and that only a third of people living or working in rural areas believe the police are responding to issues of concern to them (compared to two thirds nationally). Rural crime is also significantly under-reported.

On behalf of rural people, the Network is urging the government to reconsider the proposed changes to how police forces are funded, and is encouraging members of the public to respond to a consultation being held by the Government. The proposed new formula does not take into account the unit-cost of policing a rural area, and nor does it reflect the majority of work the police do which is not in fact crime-related – such as road safety or responding to welfare issues.

The Network will be encouraging as many rural residents as possible to respond to the Government’s consultation individually, urging the new police funding formula to recognise the inbuilt complexities of dealing with crime in rural, isolated areas. The public will also be invited to sign the ‘*rural policing matters*’ petition. Anyone interested can see more information here - <http://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/work/rural-policing-matters/>

Julia Mulligan, Chair of the National Rural Crime Network, said “*There is real concern both from representatives of rural communities like our Network, and those communities themselves, that without proper resourcing for rural police forces than some crimes and anti-social behaviour might not get the attention they deserve.*”

*“Trust in policing is already very low, especially when compared to urban residents, and if the government doesn’t sufficiently recognise the needs of rural people, and therefore rural policing, that trust will only diminish. We may then be in a vicious cycle of under-reporting, because of lack of trust and resources to deal with issues, which will then lead to further under-reporting.”*

*“If you are a concerned member of a rural community, we want you to make your voice heard by responding directly to the Government’s consultation, and to sign the ‘rural policing matters’ petition. You can find all the information on the Network’s website.”*

You can read more about the issues, write to the Government or sign the petition here - <http://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/work/rural-policing-matters/>

**ENDS**

## DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

Police Funding Consultation  
Police Resources Policy Team  
Crime and Policing Group  
6th Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Email [policefundingconsultation@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:policefundingconsultation@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

[INSERT DATE HERE]

Dear Mr Penning,

I am writing to you formally as part of your consultation on the proposed changes to the police funding formula.

**My neighbours and I are very concerned that the proposal, as it stands, benefits urban police forces and overlooks the needs of more rural police forces. The National Rural Crime Network undertook what was the biggest ever survey on rural crime, and I understand the feedback was startling. There is a very clearly a lack of trust in policing from the rural community, and this will only suffer further should funding which would help rebuild that trust be diverted onto urban forces.**

Whilst the consultation lacks the detail needed to be fully informed on the consequences of the proposed formula, my concerns are:

**a. Cost of responding to rural crime**

You will know from Home Office data that much of the same crime happens in rural areas as it does in urban areas. However, these crimes can be much more resource intensive when being investigated in more isolated areas. My community would like to see a similar response to crimes or anti-social behaviour as those who live in urban areas, but this will not happen if resources are diverted away from rural areas. I will only become more disillusioned with policing if this happens.

Your consultation currently has no mention of the unit cost of responding to crime, or non-crime matters, and this will be an important part of understanding the impact on rural policing.

#### **b. Non-crime issues**

I am sure there are strong links between deprivation/troubled families and crime. However, of chief concern to me and my neighbours are lots of things which aren't crime matters specifically. In particular, road safety is a particular priority of mine and the community more widely, as well as the welfare of vulnerable members of the community who have less support available to them than to others in more urban areas. None of these issues are taken into account at the moment.

Separately, but linked, I am also concerned that deprivation exists in rural areas almost as much as in urban areas (proportionately), but that it is not identified in the same way, and therefore will not benefit from the new formula.

#### **c. Alcohol**

I support the acknowledgement of alcohol in the funding formula as it can be a big issue in my community sometimes. However, this is not due to the number of bars, but because of young people and adults drinking at home and then causing trouble. The proposed focus on bars is misguided, and seems to be designed to benefit urban areas. There are very few licensed premises in my community, but the impact of alcohol is still very much felt. I would encourage the government to have a less specific measure for alcohol than 'bars', as this is a much wider, more nuanced, issue.

**Question 9 – strongly disagree**

**Question 10 – strongly disagree**

**Question 11 – Yes, see below. There also needs to be a more nuanced measure for alcohol than the number of 'bars'.**

**Question 12 – Agree.**

**Question 13 - Issues such as road safety and 'calls for welfare' need to be taken into account. There are many vulnerable people in isolated areas that must be much harder/resources intensive for the police to respond to than their colleagues in urban areas.**

I hope you take my views, and those of my neighbours, into account. We are deeply concerned at the moment that rural communities will suffer as a result of the proposed

changes, and with trust in policing already much lower than residents in urban areas, this could prove to be very long lasting consequences indeed.

I have sent a copy of my response to the National Rural Crime Network.

Yours sincerely

### **Social media**

Please share and promote all other NRCN posts you see from other members, OPCCs and the Network itself

#RuralPolicingMatters

#FairFunding

Short link - [www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/ruralpolicingmatters/](http://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/ruralpolicingmatters/)