

# Richard Fuller MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr John Tizard, Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire  
Bridgebury House  
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters, Woburn Road  
Kempston  
Bedford, MK43 9AX

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

Dear John,

Thank you for attending the recent public meeting on rural crime at Old Warden Village Hall. Your presence, alongside the Chief Inspector, was greatly appreciated by all those in attendance.

As you know, the meeting originated in response to worrying experiences shared by families in rural Bedfordshire who have been victims of crime—sometimes repeatedly. As the meeting showed, many felt ignored or isolated when seeking assistance from Bedfordshire Police. I was particularly grateful for the time you and the Chief Inspector took to address these concerns, answer questions, and provide reassurance.

It was especially welcome to hear that this team will be relocating its base to a more central location in the county, which should help improve response times and visibility across Bedfordshire. However, as was discussed at the meeting, the broader issue remains that Bedfordshire Police continues to be funded as a predominantly rural force, despite the significant policing challenges posed by our two large urban centres and Luton Airport's counter-terrorism requirements. The current funding model is unsustainable, and there is a cross-party consensus that a new settlement is required to better reflect the demands on our police force.

I would be grateful if you could share your estimates for next year's budget considering the increases in police pay and National Insurance contributions. Furthermore, will you be continuing the increase in police numbers that we have seen over recent years?

I would appreciate your insights on these budgetary pressures and your plans to mitigate their impact on policing across Bedfordshire.

Thank you again for your time and your ongoing commitment to our communities. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Fuller'.

Richard Fuller CBE MP

Member of Parliament for North Bedfordshire  
Westminster: 0207 219 8602 Constituency: 01767 317224  
Email: [richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk)  
Website: [www.richardfuller.co.uk](http://www.richardfuller.co.uk)