



The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Formal Response to the Report of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel on its Review of the Commissioner's proposed Fire and Rescue Precept for 2021-22

I would like to thank the Panel for its report dated 8th February 2021 which sets out the results of its review of my proposed precept for 2021-22

This report is the response I am required to give to the Panel in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. This response is required to be published in a manner which is to be determined by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in accordance with schedule 5, paragraph 5(4).

Following the meeting, the Fire Minister approved the sum of £2 million to be provided to Fire in recognition of our unique circumstances following the governance change, together with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on our financial stability plans. **This equates to £1m to support the revenue budget and £1 million to support reserves.** However, we have also been advised that unfortunately MHCLG will not allow any precept flexibility given for 2021/22.

Whilst this flexibility would have gone some way to addressing the challenges, it does mean that I do not have to put the pressure on local taxpayers this year. As such, the Fire precept increase will rise by £1.23 per annum to £63.20 for 2021-22, an increase of 1.99%.

Although the additional funding is welcome for 2021/22, my officers and I will continue to work with the Home Office to try and secure a permanent increase in base funding for NCFRA in future years.

I note the points the Panel made at its meeting; summarised in section 3 of the Panel's report and welcome its unanimous support in relation to the possible flexibility in terms of the potential of increasing the precept by £5.

Stephen Mold
Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
9th February 2021