

Joe Orson JP CC

Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary,
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

3 August 2020

Dear Priti Patel MP,

I am writing on behalf of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel regarding costs related to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).

I understand that IICSA is due to sit in October 2020 to hear evidence about historic allegations concerning the late MP Greville Janner and the local police's management of them. Leicestershire Police is a core participant at IICSA as are several former police officers. The former police officers are separately represented as they face challenge regarding their individual conduct during the investigation.

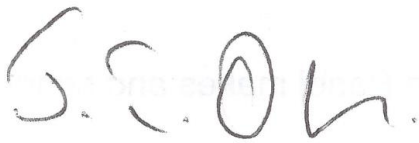
The cost of the Leicestershire Police's preparations has been anticipated and built into the budget for 2020/21. However, the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is also responsible for meeting the legal costs of the core participant officers, in accordance with the provisions of Home Office Circular 010/2017. These costs have not been budgeted for because, until recently it was uncertain whether IICSA would go ahead; whether these individuals would be called as witnesses and whether the OPCC was responsible for meeting their costs. The OPCC have only recently been able to estimate the likely overall costs of IICSA to the OPCC and still await complete clarity regarding these costs due to uncertainty over other former officers being given core participant status. For all these reasons IICSA costs were not included in the budget that was approved by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel in February 2020.

The OPCC has fully investigated the extent of their liability to meet these costs and have estimated the likely total sum of meeting the legal costs of former employees of Leicestershire Police covering the duration of the investigation up to £1.2m plus VAT.

I would submit that Leicestershire Police and Leicestershire OPCC have acted entirely appropriately in response to this issue, alerting the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel members of this liability and its impact on the budget approved in February 2020, but they have no control over the total liability that the OPCC is likely to incur and I would therefore ask you to give full consideration to whether the Home Office can provide financial assistance to meet the anticipated liability during the current financial year. All Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel members are very much in support of this request.

I look forward to hearing positive news on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Orson'.

Joe Orson JP CC

Chairman of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel