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Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire

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Your Reference:

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Cllr Graham Hyde
Killingbeck and Seacroft Ward
Civic Hall
Leeds
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Dear *Graham*

Leeds City Centre Evening and Night Time Economy

Thank you for your letter regarding Leeds City Centre evening and night time economy. Over the last month, I have had several conversations with West Yorkshire's Chief Constable Dee Collins and the Leeds District Commander Paul Money about the Leeds City Centre evening and night time economy. I have also been in discussion with partners including at a meeting in Leeds to talk about issues relating to taxis in Leeds and recently I spent a night with the Leeds Street Angels and Leeds City Centre Policing Team to see first-hand some of challenges being faced. I reported on some of this to the Leeds Council Scrutiny Committee Working Group last week.

Also last week the Police and Crime Panel agree with my proposal to increase the police council tax by £5 per year for Band D properties. This will enable me to build on last year's recruitment (over 600 officers) with an extra 200 police officers in our communities. This slight rise in the precept will also enable me to protect the number of Police and Community Support Officers in Leeds who do a vital job keeping people safe and feeling safe. However, it is important to note that the government has cut West Yorkshire Police's budget by nearly a third since 2010 and although I have made protecting frontline policing a priority there is a long way to go to rebuild the numbers and increase policing visibility across West Yorkshire.

I am reassured that West Yorkshire Police are deploying more resources in the City Centre during the peak times of the night time economy but it is in everyone's interest to keep Leeds City Centre a vibrant, successful and most importantly safe place. We all need to work better together to find solutions to some of the issues we face and I am pleased there is comprehensive partnership working taking place between business owners, West Yorkshire Police, Leeds City Council, health and other key community safety partners looking into how to tackle some of the issues that you have raised. Innovative joint solutions have been identified and work is on-going to implement these, including discussions with the Leeds 'Business Improvement District (BID)' to see what additional resources can be secured for the Leeds City Centre evening and night time economy and for wider community

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safety. The recent awarding of a 'Purple Flag' status to Leeds is also reassuring and comments were passed on to Chief Superintendent Paul Money about the policing approach being exemplary.

With regards the crime statistics for November that you have raised, we have improved data recording practices across West Yorkshire that showed an increase of 18% in November when in actuality the rise was in real terms 4%. However, we are aware that there has been an increase in violent crime (these figures are greatly influenced by an increase in 'violence without injury') and in theft from the person and I will continue to monitor this and work with the police and partners to better respond to these challenges.

I hope that I have addressed the concerns that you have raised and I would be more than happy to meet with yourself and colleagues to discuss any of these issues further but if, in the meantime, you would like any further information or have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

*Regards
Mark*

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