



Home Office

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP  
Minister of State for Policing, Criminal  
Justice and Victims

2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Mr Mark Burns-Williamson  
Police & Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire  
Ploughland House  
62 George Street  
Wakefield  
WF1 1DL

05 JAN 2015

*John Mark*

Thank you for your letter of 17 December in relation to your application for Special Grant funding to cover the additional costs of policing an English Defence League demonstration in October 2013.

Firstly, I would like to apologise again for the unacceptable delay in responding to your application and I appreciate the efforts your force made to provide the information that was requested. HMIC were at the time heavily involved in the NATO security plans and did not provide their report until October 2014.

HMIC have shown that police forces are successfully balancing their books whilst delivering reductions in crime. I am confident that the progress West Yorkshire Police have made this year in meeting their financial challenges means that the costs of policing EDL demonstrations does not present a serious financial or operational threat.

The Home Office has also had a number of financial challenges to meet this year. A number of commitments such as the NATO summit, and an increase in applications meant that some tough decisions had to be made about this year's Special Grant budget. The information on our website that you included in your correspondence comes from a Freedom of Information request and was released in March 2014. Since that time, three other Special Grant applications have been declined because they did not meet the one per cent threshold.