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Sent: 13 July 2020 19:15
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Cc: LEWIS, Richard (p2688); [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: News Release: Alex accuses the Home Secretary of playing politics with Cleveland Police

Fyi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2020 16:09
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: News Release: Alex accuses the Home Secretary of playing politics with Cleveland Police

Alex accuses the Home Secretary of playing politics with Cleveland Police

The Home Secretary is playing politics with Cleveland Police and it is communities that are paying the price with some of the highest violent crime rates in the country.

The accusation from Stockton North MP Alex Cunningham followed his question to the Home Secretary requesting more funding to help the police service tackle the problem of violent crime.

In the House of Commons Chamber, Alex said:

"Cleveland has the third highest violent crime rate in the country and ranks sixth highest nationally for the rate of offences involving knives and sharp instruments, whilst the most serious violent offences are increasing at a higher rate than the national average.

"This is despite excellent work by our new chief constable.

"The Government has granted over £100m to 18 police force areas and PCCs deemed to have a significant problem with serious violence. Why hasn't Cleveland been included?"

Whilst joining Alex in praising the work of the new Chief Constable, the Home Secretary failed to give any commitment to help out communities across Cleveland, choosing instead to talk about problems of the past.

After her failure to promise no other action other than keeping it under review, Alex said:

"The Home Secretary knows the problems our local communities are facing – she knows about the high rates of violent crime yet fails to act to help the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner to do their job.

"I have no doubt she is simply playing politics rather than focusing on the harm she is doing to our communities by failing to provide the resources we need to implement the initiatives we need. If she thinks

that withholding funding from the police to tackle violent crime is going to win her support across Cleveland, she is very sadly mistaken."

END

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