

Lyons Enquiry

Spending at less than FSS plus Police Grant

<u>2004/05</u>	£m	
FSS	248.639	
Police Grant	<u>223.748</u>	
	472.387	
Budget Requirement (BR)	468.919	a 4% increase
Difference	<u>- 3.468</u>	
Precept set	£98.52	a 7.5% increase

To spend at FSS plus police grant would have resulted in a 4.7% BR increase and a 12.4% precept increase (to £103.05).

2005/06

FSS	259.793	
Police grant	<u>233.166</u>	
	492.959	
BR	493.914	a 5% increase
Difference	<u>+ 0.955</u>	0.19% above FSS & grant
Precept set	£105.41	a 6.99% increase

£7.420m savings required from the standstill budget in order to levy a Precept of £105.41 and BR of £493.914m. To spend at standstill would have required a BR of £501.334m, an increase of 6.9%. The resultant precept would have been £115.05, a 16.8% increase.

Crime Fighting Fund (CFF)

In 2000/01 the Government began to pay CFF grant to Authorities in order to increase the number of police officers.

In 2003/04 the Authority increased its precept by 33% and recruited 567 extra officers, over and above those recruited for CFF purposes.

There is, of course, no distinction between who is a CFF Officer and who is not

The perversity arises as follows :-

- a) Increases in police officer numbers are taken from the numbers in post at the end of the previous year, not the budgeted numbers. You therefore cannot afford to be other than 100% correct in your forecasts, which include recruitment and wastage

To illustrate this, GMPA took an extra intake in the last month of the 2002/03 year and estimated this would be balanced by wastage. The expected wastage did not all occur and so numbers were above budget at the end of the 2002/03 financial year. At the end of the 2003/04 financial year numbers were below the previous year and the government is attempting to recover £1m grant as a result.

- b) Grant is clawed back pro rata to the number of officers below the previous years actual. If the Authority wished to achieve efficiency savings by replacing a police officer with a civilian then grant for the officer would be lost and the civilian post would become growth.
- c) The rules do not look at police staff as a whole but maintain the distribution between police officers and civilian staff.