



Home Office

Home Secretary

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Chief Constable Anthony Bangham, West Mercia
PCC John-Paul Campion, West Mercia
Chief Constable Martin Jelley, Warwickshire
PCC Philip Secombe, Warwickshire

7 October 2019

Dear Colleagues,

I write further to my letter of 25th September 2019, which consulted you on my potential use of the power in section 23G of the Police Act 1996. Thank you for your responses of 30th September 2019 and 1st October, which I have now considered.

I have noted the points that both police forces have made. Specifically, the alternative options around costs associated with the extended collaboration agreement put forward by West Mercia. Given that there is no agreement on the cost split and that this is an area where independent expertise will be providing support, I wish to extend the existing agreement but consider the costs of extension as part of the independent review. I have also considered Warwickshire's request to extend the collaboration agreement for six months and feel that this does enable adequate time to resolve the outstanding issues avoiding a deadline immediately following the Christmas break.

It is my understanding that you have not reached an agreement to smoothly transition services past 8th October. If the collaboration agreement is allowed to terminate without agreed transition terms, I consider that there would be a severe operational impact on Warwickshire Police which would create a risk to the public that I am not prepared to tolerate.

I therefore with immediate effect make the enclosed Direction, which provides for the collaboration agreement to continue for a further six months. I have carefully considered the period of this extension and feel that a six month extension provides sufficient time for both forces to reach agreement. It is clear to me that this is the best way to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in this case.

My officials will work with colleagues in the policing sector to help identify independent expertise to assist you in assessing and agreeing the costs of termination and transition during the next six months. I hope that you will, with this support, reach swift agreement to

ensure the ongoing provision of vital policing services to the people of Warwickshire and West Mercia.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Patel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP

Direction under section 23G(1) of the Police Act 1996

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the power conferred by section 23G(1) of the Police Act 1996,

And being satisfied

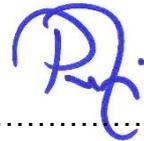
(i) that it appears to her to be best calculated to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the police, and

(ii) that other satisfactory arrangements cannot be made, or cannot be made in time,

And having had regard to the policing protocol,

makes the following Direction to the chief officer of police of West Mercia, the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, the chief officer of police of Warwickshire, and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire (collectively known as "the Parties").

1. This Direction is to take effect immediately upon receipt by the Parties.
2. The Parties are directed to continue the Strategic Alliance Collaboration Agreement dated 25 July 2018 until 23:59 on 08 April 2020.
3. This Direction is without prejudice to the Parties taking the necessary steps to enable termination of the Strategic Alliance Collaboration Agreement.



Signed.....Rt Hon Priti Patel MP

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Dated this 7 October 2019