



**Cheshire
Constabulary**

**Heather Thompson
Chair of Cheshire Neighbourhood
Watch Association (CNWA)**

BY EMAIL

15 December 2025

Dear Heather,

Thank you for your letter of 13th December and your considered views. CNWA is an important partner for us in keeping Cheshire safe and that will continue to be the case post the implementation of this new model for neighbourhood policing which in many regards will be even stronger. Each PCSO will be replaced with a warranted police officer who will have additional powers which means they can address crime issues directly. We will maintain the allocation of named officers to specific areas and the likely 27 PCSOs who remain will be fully able to focus on their role of engagement.

I do not take this step lightly and it is very much the last option for us having managed the impact of austerity while costs continue to rise. As you can imagine all the low hanging fruit in terms of savings have been made and we are carrying a significant number of police staff vacancies - over 200 in the last three years. I have the difficult task of assessing what cuts will least impact on the service to the public whilst balancing the budget. I cannot now do that without sadly implementing redundancies - it is just a question of where. We can backfill PCSOs in the neighbourhood teams with officers whereas if I remove posts elsewhere, I will lose that member of staff and then a frontline officer to backfill that role. It is an invidious choice - do I reduce PCSO numbers or for example call takers in the control room so that people cannot contact us as effectively in an emergency or perhaps domestic violence advocates? In essence myself and the command team have to apply our professional judgement and experience to provide the best possible service and I am confident this plan does this and will actually in many regards enhance what we do.

I do acknowledge the valuable points you raise, and ACC Ross will ensure that the team link in with you to reassure you about our support for CNWA going forward.



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Roberts'.

**Mark Roberts QPM MSc. B.A. (Hons)
Chief Constable
NPCC Lead Football Policing
NPCC Service Director for Senior National Assessment
Honorary Fellow of the University of Liverpool**