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Police funding: Taxpayers ‘deserve more than Khan’s finger-pointing at the government’

Responding to calls from the Mayor of London for the government to increase funding for the Metropolitan Police, London Assembly member Steve O’Connell said:

“This is the latest example of Sadiq Khan failing to get his house in order and then turning to the government to ask for more cash.

“Additional funding for the Met is always welcome but the Mayor must make the most of what he already has. Just last week it emerged he is yet to allocate almost £50million of funding from his latest tax increase*. We also learned that much of the Met’s estate, worth tens of millions of pounds, is under-occupied, with some buildings up to 50 per cent empty.

“The constant finger-pointing at the government is simply an attempt to distract from his own clear inadequacies. Knife crime is through the roof, acid attacks are rising and moped-related crime is rife. These are the consequences of a Mayor who is losing his grip. If the government did what Sadiq Khan demands they would simply be pouring more water into a leaking pot. Taxpayers deserve more for their money.”

ENDS.

Notes

- Steve O’Connell is the GLA Conservative spokesman for policing and crime
- *See attached agenda from the Budget and Performance Committee’s policing and crime meeting on January 4th. Section 1.5 states:

Because of the lack of time between the publication of the Police Funding Settlement and the Mayor’s draft budget, the budget simply shows this extra income as a line called “income to be allocated by the Mayor”. The draft budget assumes that in future years the annual increase in council tax will revert back to 1.99 per cent. This announcement – and assuming the Mayor intends to keep increasing council tax by the maximum allowed without a referendum – would go a long way to mitigating MOPAC’s unidentified savings over the coming years.

(£ millions)	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
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Savings to be identified	0.0	72.5	128.9	183.3
Income to be allocated by the Mayor	49.0	74.0	99.7	127.7
Source: GLA consultation budget page 24.				

**Taking into account 'Income to be allocated by the Mayor' (from the tax increase), the above table shows the Met will not face a significant deficit in the funding that needs to be identified until at least 2021.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact the press office below.

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