

Geoffrey Cox Q.C., M.P. for Torridge & West Devon



GC/Cox/ar

12 September 2016

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Stephen Cox  
Parish Clerk  
Dartmoor Forest Parish Council  
Middle Woodley  
Sydenham Damerel  
Tavistock  
PL19 8QU

~~Dear Mr Cox~~

Increases in anti-social behaviour and concerns at levels of policing support

Thank you very much for your letter, dated 8 September 2016, regarding the Parish Council's concerns about the above issues.

I am troubled to learn of the situation you describe, and I have therefore discussed this matter in detail with Inspector Mark Sloman at Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.

He has confirmed that there is concern over the recent increase in anti-social behaviour incidents in Princetown, and also regarding the large rise in criminal damage that has occurred over the summer months.

It is important to note that the crime statistics for Princetown also include incidents inside HMP Dartmoor, which must be recorded and investigated but do not affect the local community or their standard of living, and I am told that there has been an increase in reported crime from the prison recently.

However, even taking this into consideration, there remains a problem, and I am reassured not only by Inspector Sloman's recognition of this, but also of the steps being taken to address it.

The Police are working closely with the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer to try and take preventative action against those individuals who are responsible for the majority of ASB and criminal damage in the village. They also have a multi-agency meeting later this month to discuss this issue, out of which it is hoped that several positive actions will result.

In addition, a 'primary tasking' has been raised to all local officers to ensure that Princetown is patrolled on a regular basis due to its isolated nature, and this continues, with support from the Tavistock Neighbourhood Beat Manager, 24hr response officers, and two PCSOs.

Please reply to the Constituency Office  
First Floor, Lockyer House, Paddons Row, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 0HF.  
Tel: 01822 612925

Website: [geoffreycox.co.uk](http://geoffreycox.co.uk)  
Email: [tellgeoffrey@geoffreycox.co.uk](mailto:tellgeoffrey@geoffreycox.co.uk)



I do hope that the above provides some sense of reassurance that your concerns are being taken seriously by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, and that everything possible is being done to increase the police presence in Princetown and to reduce crime rates.

I will continue to monitor this situation closely, and I would be grateful if you could keep me updated on behalf of the Parish Council.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Ramsay".

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~~ff~~ **Geoffrey Cox O.C. M.P.**  
(dictated by Geoffrey Cox but signed in his absence)

I will treat as confidential all personal information you give to me or to my staff. I may need to pass on this information to others so that they can help you. I undertake to handle the information you give me in line with requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

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