

Pete Durnell (UKIP) - PCC Candidate for West Midlands

Firstly may I apologise for the delay in responding to your email below, as you may appreciate, the final two weeks of a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) campaign are an extremely busy time for the candidates.

Secondly, I am unfortunately prohibited from making specific pledges, as this against my party's (UKIP's) policy.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that if elected I will place the very highest priority on tackling the sharp rises (certainly in the West Midlands) in domestic violence, sexual violence (up a shocking 24% in the most recent year for which figures are available in the West Mids <http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/sexual-offences-rocket-24-per-10266385>)

- stalking, forced marriages, FGM (the complete lack of convictions around this being a national, not just West Midlands disgrace)

- people trafficking and child abuse and sexual exploitation.

These are all without doubt significant problems in the West Midlands region currently, and setting up an action plan to address them would be an immediate priority for me, if I were to be elected as the next West Midlands PCC on Thursday May 5th.

I actually met with the current Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police force this morning. One of items discussed was 'sharing of best practice' between UK forces. I don't believe this takes place as it should do currently, and the Chief Constable to a certain extent confirmed this to be the case. Please be assured that not only I will work extremely hard to ensure that best practice is adopted by West Midlands Police in all areas, should I become the next PCC, but also that 'best practices' relating to prevention of crimes involving violence will be at the very top of my priority list.

I have been campaigning strongly that a greater proportion of PCC resources should be directed to smaller, community-led projects, and away from the setting up of large scale Commissions, and support of large Charities, as appears to be the policy of the current West Midlands PCC David Jamieson,

- I am very happy to confirm that as part of this process I would actively consult with all the groups mentioned in paragraph '3' of your mail.

Restorative Justice is currently used in the West Midlands, and I believe has achieved some very positive results, however whilst I would support its use going forward in principle, it's certainly not a 'cure all', I absolutely agree that it should not be assumed to be applicable to 'all crimes and all criminals/victims'. This is not an assumption I would ever make.

Prostitution : Whilst I would be wary of adopting the complete 'Nordic/Swedish model', I am happy to confirm that my approach to tackling prostitution would be broadly in line with the approach detailed in Paragraph '5' below.

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I would like to point out that whilst I am prevented from making specific pledges during campaigning,

- UKIP does not 'whip' it's Police and Crime Commissioners, in other words, 'if elected' I would be trusted and free to make all my decisions purely on the basis of 'what is best for the West Midlands, and for those who live and work in the region'.

I hope this finds you well, and apologies again for the delay in responding,

Kind regards,

Pete Durnell

(UKIP candidate for West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner 2016)