

**LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND POLICE AND
CRIME PANEL – 23 JUNE 2026**

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following question has been put to the Police and Crime Commissioner:

Question by Mr Jonathan Smith:

Why wasn't any town/city from across Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland included in the Home Office's Winter of Action initiative, as per the list of involved locations listed on the Home Office website, despite being included in the similar Safer Streets Summer initiative earlier in 2025? According to the website this was led by Police and Crime Commissioners/Deputy Mayors to focus on anti-social behaviour, street crime and retail crime as well as night-time economy safety and violence against women and girls, many of which are issues highlighted in the Police and Crime Commissioners' Police and Crime Plan as areas of focus. It would seem that most, if not all, other Force areas were involved in this work.

Response by the Police and Crime Commissioner:

Thank you for your question. I take my responsibility to make Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland the safest place it can be very seriously.

Last year I ensured that Leicestershire fully implemented a plan to take part in the Governments Safer Summer Streets, despite there being no additional funding to do so. I was incredibly grateful to the good will of partners across the policing area for their participation. When the Home Secretary asked for feedback on that campaign, I returned comments on the frustration around the lack of additional support when there was a request to deliver additional activity. The administrative burden of the planning process and reporting requirements put on us by the Home Officer were also significant to my staff, Leicestershire Police and partners.

As such when the Home Secretary wrote to me asking me to coordinate a similar approach for their Winter of Action campaign, again whilst offering no additional funding, I declined. That is however, not to say that there was not already significant activity planned by both my office and Leicestershire Police, to ensure safety on the streets of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland throughout the winter period.

I wrote to the Home Secretary at the time outlining my rationale for the decision not to formally take part in Winter of Action but also outlining the significant level of activity already planned to keep the people of our region safe. I have attached that letter for your reassurance.