



# Home Office

Kit Malthouse MP  
Minister of State for Crime,  
Policing and the Fire Service

2 Marsham Street,  
London SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Lynne Boyle  
PM to HM Senior Coroner  
Birmingham and Solihull Districts

The Coroner's Court  
50 Newton Street  
Birmingham  
B4 6NE



HOCS Reference: MIN/0013756/19

25 September 2019

Thank you for your e-mail of 13 August and for forwarding a Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths for Karen Jane Burns, on behalf of Mrs Hunt, Senior Coroner, Birmingham & Solihull. I am sorry for the delay in my response

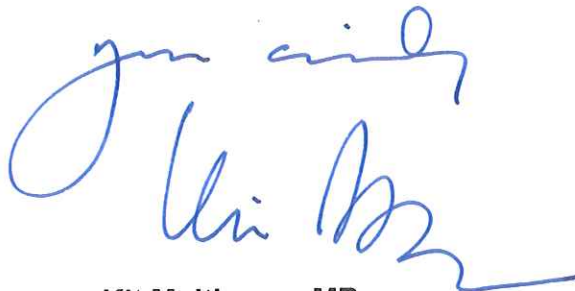
I am very sorry to hear about this loss of life and I welcome the opportunity to identify lessons from this tragic event.

The report identifies two concerns: the grading of 101 calls and thus the speed of any subsequent response; and resourcing levels in West Midlands Police.

On the concern of 101 call grading and prioritisation. Elected Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables are responsible for deciding how best to manage their communications with the public, and how to respond to incidents in their force areas. However, I will ask Home Office officials to contact West Midlands Police to identify if any remedial or additional measures need to be put in place to ensure calls are handled appropriately.

Regarding resourcing levels in West Midlands Police, I would like to reassure you that public safety remains the Government's number one priority and we will continue to ensure that the police are given the resources they need to do their important work. The police funding settlement for 2019/20 is significant and provides the most substantial investment in policing since 2010, with a total funding of up to £14 billion, an increase of up to £970m compared to 2018/19, including precept, pensions funding and national investment. This settlement enables policing to meet the financial pressures they face, while continuing to recruit and fill capability gaps.

More recently, the Prime Minister announced an increase of 20,000 new police officers over the next three years, and the Home Office is working with policing to consider how these officers will be allocated across forces and functions. I hope that this response provides you with the reassurance that you seek but should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kit Malthouse', with a large, stylized initial 'K' and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

**Kit Malthouse MP**