



Home Office

Denise Park  
Chief Executive  
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Blackburn, Lancashire  
BB1 7DY



Reference: TRO/0013105/19

1 October 2019

Dear Ms Park,

Thank you for your letter of 30 August. I'm sorry to hear of the difficulty the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel has experienced in formally agreeing its composition.

As you are aware, PCPs must from time to time consider whether changing the number of co-opted members would help in meeting the 'balanced appointment' objective. If the Panel decides that changing the number would help, it must exercise that power by application to the Secretary of State (provided the total membership of the panel would not exceed 20). However, you are correct in noting that the proposed co-optees must have agreement from all members of the Panel.

It is the responsibility of the Panel to agree nominations which are acceptable to all of its members. As noted in your letter, the balanced appointment objective must be secured 'as far as reasonably practical' – if you feel the disagreement on co-option is irreconcilable, then the Panel may have reached the limit of this definition.

We are grateful for early sight of the issue at this stage, but as we are not considering a failure to appoint from any local authority member you will appreciate that any role for the Secretary of State is limited.

Yours sincerely

Lauren Diffey  
Head of Governance, Scrutiny and Accountability  
Police Strategy and Reform Unit