

KENT MESSENGER

Kent's Chief Constable appeals for more money to cope with immigration

15.5.08

I fully support Mike Fuller, the Chief Constable of Kent, who has said that the effect of immigration should be taken into account by the government when funding is allocated to the county's police force.

He estimates that 78 per cent of Kent's population growth is accounted for by immigration which, say the police, has contributed to a rise of more than a third in violent crimes over 5 years. This said the vast majority of immigrants come here for work, not handouts. I would do exactly the same if I came from a poorer part of the world.

The additional cost to the police force is £34 million over the past 3 years and claims increases in funding from the Home Office have failed to keep pace.

This is happening all over the country but Kent is particularly hard hit because of our closeness and links to the continent.

The government has to get a grips with this and words from the Home Secretary such as, "recognising the genuine problems that Kent faces" is not good enough. We need money immediately and it should be backdated. I have been highlighting this problem for a number of years both as an ITV reporter and now as your MP.

Our local teachers and hospital staff tell me that the demands of immigration are very "challenging". Lets not kid ourselves - most of the new housing is to accommodate immigration.

We are creaking under the weight of uncontrolled immigration, Home Secretary, at least give Kent the money to deal with it.