



30 November 2020

### **Note of thanks from the Home Secretary to all Police Officers and Staff**

I want to send my personal thanks to all the police officers and staff, across England and Wales, who have worked so hard to protect the public during this pandemic.

I know how hard it has been for you all. The coronavirus restrictions have fallen heavily on all of us, but for those of you charged with enforcing these new rules, the burden has been especially hard.

I'm aware that, at times, it can seem like the police are blamed simply for doing their job and keeping us all safe.

But I want you to know that a large and often silent majority of people in this country appreciate your efforts, and support the vital work that you do.

Millions of people across England and Wales are very happy with the way their local police have responded to the pandemic. This level of public support is a testament to the hard work each and every one of you have put in during this difficult year.

Officers on the front line are the most visible, and they know how much I appreciate everything they do.

But I want to pay a special tribute to police staff, whose tireless work behind the scenes is just as important.

I understand how hard it has been to work from home for long stretches. Now we have entered a second lockdown, the novelty has worn thin, and the isolation from friends and colleagues can be particularly challenging.

Many of you, though, have continued to travel into work to keep our country safe.

Control room staff in particular have been the unsung heroes of this crisis. The pressure on them has been absolutely huge, deploying vital resources to urgent and competing demands. Thank you for everything you do.

The conduct of the whole police service throughout this pandemic has been exemplary. You have been a model of dedication, courage and professionalism during the most difficult circumstances and represent the best of us.

Once again, you have earned the unwavering respect and gratitude of the most important judge of all – the British people.

With all good wishes  


**Rt Hon Priti Patel MP**