

Kim McGuinness PCC  
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Balliol Business Park  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
NE12 8EW

Vanessa Jardine  
Northumbria Police Headquarters  
Middle Engine Lane  
Wallsend  
Tyne and Wear  
NE28 9NT

05/12/2023

Dear Kim & Vanessa,

In the early hours of the 10<sup>th</sup> of November Belford Community Shop was broken into. A considerable sum was taken, the safe broken into, charity boxes stolen along with a good deal of damage to the premises.

The trustees contacted the police by phone on the day of the crime and were told unless there is blood on the scene the police would not attend. This disregards all the other evidence that could have been, and may still be, available such as CCTV from residential and commercial premises. To date still no police officer has visited the scene.

Belford Community Shop is at the heart of the village and is staffed solely by volunteers. Some of the volunteers are quite shaken by events and a police visit would have done a lot to reassure Belford that we are a priority for the police.

To be clear, I not blaming our local community police officers who do some fantastic work in the area. But for no officer to be asked to attend a crime at such an important venue shows how out of touch the Northumbria Police hierarchy are with our community.

A similar incident in Coggeshall in Essex had police officers attend and investigate. Essex Police has 192 police officers per 100,000 people. Northumbria Police has 247 police offers per 100,000 people, the 8<sup>th</sup> highest police officer to population ratio in the Country. Why should we receive a lesser service in Northumberland than Essex when Northumbria has more cops.

I demand Northumbria Police open a full and proper investigation into the Belford Community Shop burglary and apologise for the lack of action so far.

Sincerely,



Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson  
Bamburgh Ward Member  
Chairman, Belford Parish Council