



Rehman Chishti MP  
*Member of Parliament for Gillingham and Rainham*

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Matthew Scott  
Kent Police & Crime Commissioner  
Kent Police Headquarters  
Sutton Road  
Maidstone, Kent  
ME15 9BZ

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Matthew,

**Re: Concerns regarding reported rise in dog theft**

I am writing to you regarding the recent concerning reports of an increase in dog theft, an issue which has been raised with me by constituents. Thank you for recently sharing your video regarding steps that can be taken to help prevent dog theft.

Nationally, there is estimated to have been a significant increase in dog thefts in the past few years, with the charity DogLost recording a 170% increase in the crime between 2019 and 2020.

I understand that in July 2020, the Home Office awarded £111,005 to Kent as part of the Government's £25m Safer Streets Funds given out to Police and Crime Commissioners across England and Wales, which you announced was to be invested in Gillingham to help prevent crime.

Dogs are a beloved part of many families across Gillingham & Rainham and Kent and this heartless crime has a huge emotional impact on those affected by it.

I would be grateful if you could please further update me on what steps your office and Kent Police are taking to tackle dog theft?

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Rehman Chishti MP