

# Press Release

**From Barry Stamp  
Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Spokesperson  
Stafford Constituency**

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**Use: Immediate**

## **Stafford Lib Dems Back Parties Plans to Cut Crime**

A leading Stafford Liberal Democrat has today back his Parties plans to cut crime. Speaking after the national launch of the “We Can Cut Crime” campaign Cllr Barry Stamp said that the new policies put forward by the Liberal Democrats had to be compared with Labour’s abysmal record on crime where only one in every hundred crimes committed leads to a court conviction.

“Over the past few years the Labour Government has talked up its record on crime, but it is clear that what is said is far from the truth. Indeed you only need to look at what they promised in Staffordshire to see just how they are failing. At the last election they said they would provide 24000 Community Support Officers across the Country, with 339 coming to Staffordshire, however since that announcement the figures have been reduced by 130. However these cuts need to be measured against the fact that violent crime has doubled under this government, reoffending rates are at a record high, and only one in a hundred crimes gets punished in court. It's time for effective action on crime, and proper payback for the hundreds of thousands of victims Labour has neglected.”

“I know the new Liberal Democrat polices announced today will be welcomed by Stafford residents. Not only do we plan to put more police officers on the streets – paid for by scrapping the ID card scheme, but also ensure sentences mean what they say, with no suggestion they should be cut short. Further more local communities will be given powers to control problems in their neighbourhood helping them to reclaim their streets, shopping centres, and open spaces. It is unacceptable in this day and age that many Stafford residents are frightened to go out of their own homes after dark and this problem is tackled head-on by these new proposals ,” said Cllr Stamp.

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Notes to editors

i) In the 2005 Election Manifesto Labour promised that 24,000 Community Support Officers would be provided national. However since that time this figure as been reduced to 15978 a reduction of 8022. Staffordshire's share of the promised 24,000 was 339, but this has been revised to 209 a shortfall of 120.

(Source - Written Parliamentary Question 9 Jan 2007: Column 532W)

ii) The British Crime Survey 2005 estimated that in Staffordshire 56400 people were involved in violent crimes – a staggering 1 in 15 of adults.

iii) The new Liberal Democrat policies to cut crime include:

a) More police on the street paid for by not spending billions on ID cards

b) Compulsory work and training in prison to cut reoffending

c) Better compensation for victims paid for by prison work

d) More power to local communities to take back their streets e.g. let communities close pubs and clubs that cause trouble

e) Make sentences mean what they say - life should mean life