



Press Release

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Police Federation hosts 'Day of Action' against Government cuts to policing

The Police Federation for England and Wales has organised a 'Day of Action' to highlight the impact of Government cuts to policing, including an open-meeting and lobbying event in the heart of Westminster on 13 July.

Over 2,000 off duty police officers from all over England and Wales will attend the open-meeting to highlight their concerns about proposed cuts to the police service and to ask the Home Secretary to treat them fairly and to honour the police pay negotiation process.

A number of high profile speakers will show their support for police officers on the day including Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper MP, Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee Keith Vaz MP, ACPO President Sir Hugh Orde and Brendan Barber, General Secretary of the TUC.

Paul McKeever, Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales says;

"We have no doubt that a 20 per cent cut to overall police budgets will lead to more crime. It simply won't be possible to provide the same level of service to the public that we do now if we are losing officers, support staff, vehicles and stations.

"We accept that cuts have to be made but we ask that the Government acknowledges our unique status; police officers do not have industrial rights, so it is vital that the Home Secretary honours the police pay negotiation process.

"On 13th July we will be calling for a fair negotiation process and honesty about the implications of cuts to policing. The public has a right to know what the likely impact will be if 20 per cent cuts are imposed."

The police service currently faces a triple whammy attack on pay including; a public sector two-year pay freeze and then a proposed two-year freeze on constables' incremental pay and a likely increase in pension contributions of three per cent which will result in many paying 14 per cent contributions. The cumulative effect of all this is that in a recent survey of 42,000 officers by the Police Federation, 98 per cent said morale is at an all-time low.

The 'Day of Action' is part of an on-going campaign by the Federation to raise awareness of the likely impact of the proposed 20 per cent cuts and the risk to public safety if the most experienced officers leave or are forced out.

ENDS

Notes to editors

- For media enquiries, to attend the meeting or to set up an interview with a spokesperson please contact the Federation press office on 01372 352071 or out of hours on 07699 780798.
- The Pay Negotiating Board (PNB) was formed by statute in 1980 for the purpose of negotiating police pay and conditions. It is an independently chaired board with its own secretariat. There are two sides to negotiations; the Official Side, representing the employers, made up of representatives from government, police authorities and chief officers; the Staff Side, representing all police officers up to and including chief officers from England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- The Police Negotiating Board next meets on 26 July 2011 and the Home Secretary has indicated that she wishes for a decision on the Winsor Part 1 recommendations by then. If a settlement cannot be reached the matter will be referred to the independent Police Arbitration Tribunal for a decision.
- The Police Federation of England and Wales has been calling for a Royal Commission on Policing since 1999 and does not support the ad-hoc, piecemeal approach to reforming the police service. We are calling on the Government to ask the public what they want from their police service.