

Surrey Police plans to cut senior roles

The Federation is warning Surrey Police is setting a 'dangerous precedent' after proposals to cutback a third of senior police officer roles to save money.

Surrey Police is planning to recruit 200 more constables but only by slicing the numbers of superintendent and inspector ranks from 153 to 108, selling police stations and simplifying the structure of the force.

Proposals are set out by the force in an operational policing review, discussed at a meeting with Surrey Police Authority in December, and would be carried out over a three-year period. Mark Rowley, chief constable of the force, states on the force's website that 'difficult decisions' have to be made in recession.

But concerns have been raised over a lack of resources which will impact on both police officers and the service provided to the public.

Paul Yearwood, chairman of Surrey Police Federation, fears that where Surrey Police tread other forces may follow.

He told *Police* magazine: "The main concern regarding this review is the lack of command resilience in the structure. In many other areas, such as CID and response, it would appear that more is going to be asked of fewer managers and this will have an impact on work life balance and the health of those officers. There are fewer managers to perform on-call functions and this may increase demand on those officers even further."

Paul Ginger, chairman of the Federation's Inspectors' Central Committee said the changes will have "massive implications for the future of policing in Surrey".

"This is an extremely dangerous precedent that will not be recovered from for many years. I would urge the force to seriously reconsider the scale of the proposed cutbacks as this is not the solution to their problems."

- See feature *Policing by numbers*, page 22.

Olympic 'sports day'

The Olympics is essentially a 'sports day with more people' and we are in danger of talking ourselves out of it, according to the president of ACPO.

Sir Hugh Orde, told *Police* magazine, that he has every confidence that Britain and its police officers can host the games without major hiccups, despite reports of a shortage of specialist officers in areas like firearms.

"The police service is more than capable of dealing with the Olympics; it's just a sports day with more people. It is the commitment of the organisation to deliver a safe Olympic games.

"We have highly competent senior officers working on it. Australia did not struggle with delivering, look at the skills of officers in the UK; they are at the highest level. There are some pressure points, the same as any other major events."

The Airwave radio communication system, which will be used during the Olympics also came under scrutiny when it failed to work properly under pressure as many officers used the system.

Sir Hugh says: "Well, these things can happen but compared to 1977 when [the radio system] was incredibly unreliable and weighed about three tonnes and the equipment virtually needed to be moved in a wheelbarrow, it's a massive improvement. We can always use semaphore flags if needed."

More or less: Surrey recruit constables and cut managers



Photography: Shutterstock In.c.

Sports Day: police can handle the Olympics



Photography: Alamy