



Alan Gordon: 'put neighbourhood policing on hold'  
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## Neighbourhood policing threatens 24/7 response

Neighbourhood policing should be put on hold if it is taking resources away from response teams at breaking point, says the vice-chairman of the Police Federation.

Alan Gordon said that response policing is 'dangerously under-resourced' when he spoke to delegates at a debate on police reform at the Police Federation's annual conference in Bournemouth.

He said: "Response policing is one of the most important areas of police duties but now has minimal resilience. The situation will get worse as the Government rushes to push through neighbourhood policing and more resources will be taken from emergency policing. Twenty four-hour response policing has become a casualty of the police reform programme."

Mr Gordon said the Police Federation supported the Government's neighbourhood policing scheme, but added: "It's resource intensive. It is not possible to provide adequate response policing and deliver neighbourhood policing."

"The Home Office and ACPO must tackle the problem of response policing even if it means the delay of the neighbourhood policing programme."

He told delegates that during one neighbourhood policing pilot, the scheme only worked because the response teams were able to poach officers from other areas who were not involved in the pilot.

Federation research into 24/7 policing, *A view from the beat - 24/7 Response Policing in the modern Police Organisation*, published earlier this year, revealed low morale among response officers as they struggled to manage the increasing number of calls they were receiving. Increasing bureaucracy and continued abstraction to various squads set up to meet Government targets were blamed for the deterioration in response policing.

## Professor brands police reform blueprint as 'gibberish'

A leading police academic has launched an astonishing attack on the *Closing the Gap* report describing it as gibberish during a debate on police reform.

Professor Roger Seifert, from Keele University, said the report, by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, which sparked the biggest shake up of police forces for forty years, was 'breathtakingly bad.'

He told a packed conference hall at the annual Police Federation Conference in Bournemouth last month: "It's one of the worst documents I have come across. Towards the end of it, it was just gibberish."

"There's no business case, no strategic case. It's just bizarre. There is no mention of the problems of going bigger. It treats us all with contempt."

Professor Seifert then went on to warn police delegates that public sector reform had nothing to do with improving efficiency and effectiveness, but was all about getting 'more for the same' and that, in particular, pay would suffer.

"Watch what's going to happen with your pay. It will stand still. You're going to be attacked on several fronts. Basic pay will remain still, but there will be inducements for additional types of activities," added Prof Seifert. Peter Neyroud, chief executive designate of the National Police Improvement Agency, said the new agency would allow police officers to have a greater say in how the service should be improved.