

Police officers could 'walk' over pay claim

The Federation is warning the government that 160,000 officers could work to rule if they lose out on a three percent pay deal.

Jan Berry, chairman of the Police Federation, said that they would not agree to anything less than the three percent after pay talks broke down last month amid fears police officers are likely to be offered less.

She said: "I think police officers are very concerned they are being treated in this way and are already talking to us about the right to strike and working to rule. I don't think the government need us to be off-side at the moment." Police officers are entitled to a rise above the rate of inflation because of the special nature of their role and because they sign a 'no strike' clause.

Mrs Berry and John Francis, general secretary of the Police Federation, both on the Staff Side, voiced their disgust when the Official Side failed to agree the index linked rise, the first time since 1979.

The PNB usually hammers out the pay deal between the Staff Side, which includes those representing rank and file officers from England, Wales and Scotland and the Superintendents' Association. The Official Side, includes representation from the Home Office, ACPO and the Association of Police Authorities.

The pay claim is now due to go to conciliation this month and arbitration where Mrs Berry says the Police Federation will 'fight to ensure police officers throughout the UK receive a just and fair pay deal'.

A spokesman from the Home Office said that discussions are private but that 'it is an important issue and we take it very seriously'.

He added: "Clearly the process is ongoing and no pay increase has been agreed. The Official side is disappointed that the Staff Side has registered a failure to agree. We are still keen to reach a negotiated agreement."

Cannings you believe it!

Officers from North Yorkshire Police thought they were on the receiving end of a joke when they were sent an email requesting them to refer to a new building as 'Cannings Court' after their chief constable.

The force's headquarters in Northallerton has recently had a new building added to house the human resources, finance and information systems department.

Officers were sent an email from the human resources department which stated: 'Please note that 'new build' which house the HR department at HQ has been named Cannings Court. All staff are asked to use this as name when referring to the building'.

A spokesman from North Yorkshire Police said that although police staff had made the suggestion it should be named after Della Cannings, the force's chief constable, many officers were unaware.

Les Coverdale, secretary of North Yorkshire Police Federation, said he felt it would have been more 'appropriate' to name the new build after a fallen officer. He said: "I actually thought it was a wind up as it was the first I had heard of it, as did others.

"We have been told people wanted it to be named after the chief, unfortunately we can't find anyone. We would support our chief constable in most things, but this seems like a step too far."

Ms Cannings was on holiday at the time of going to press but a spokesman from North Yorkshire Police said: "It [the name] was suggested by staff that the building, which houses civilian support staff, was named after the chief constable to recognise the improvements she has made to the working facilities."

The suggestion was taken to North Yorkshire Police Authority who agreed the new name. The spokesman added: "No other consultation was held."

Police pay: federation will not accept less than three percent



Photography: Empics

Della Cannings: staff decided on building namesake



Photography: Police Federation