

News Beat

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News from the Constables' Central Committee



Constables' Annual Conference – special edition

This year's annual conference in Bournemouth was firmly set to be an extremely challenging and objective one with so many issues and reforms facing the police and with only weeks to go until the Police Negotiating Board meet to decide upon Tom Winsor's recommendations. The mood was strong, resolute and defiant.

The theme of this year's Conference, 'Communities Really Need Constables', was chosen to highlight the difficulties that constables across England and Wales are now facing with the cuts to numbers and the threat posed by the many reviews into policing going on.

Julie Nesbit, Chair of the Constables' Central Committee, set the scene in her keynote address. In her opening remarks she thanked all constables of England and Wales for the professional way they work; reminding delegates that British policing remains the envy of the world.

She sought explanations from the government as to why the police service was being asked to pay more than other public sector workers to clear the budget deficit. Stating that public safety and security is at risk and that law and order in England and Wales is off the government's agenda.

Ms Nesbit went on to ask the Home Secretary to remove from the Winsor Review the recommendations relating to the incremental pay freeze and the competency related threshold payment (CRTP). This she argued

was unfairly targeting those younger in service officers who as a result would earn less than CSO's and may have no choice but to leave the service. She said CRTP should remain as its properly rewards career constables. She added that it was how officers are deployed, not how many there are, as she pointed out that officer safety would be compromised as numbers drop.

On Peter Neyroud's review of leadership and training and his recommendation to introduce a professional body meaning all officers will have to pay to obtain a certificate to practice, she said, 'we police with the consent of the public and not a licence from ACPO.'

In relation to the third review to affect officers, the Hutton Review of pensions, Ms Nesbit asked the government to do the right thing by police constables who perform a dangerous and difficult job. She urged that constables should be allowed to retire from the service with the pension they signed up for when joining.

Ms Nesbit concluded her keynote address by advising the government work with, not against, the constables in England and Wales and that not to do so would mean communities would be the real losers.

TV journalist and broadcaster, Nicholas Owen facilitated the question and answer session which followed, where the panel comprised of Julie Nesbit, the CCC Chairman; the Rt Honourable Nick Herbert, Policing Minister;



Professor Roger Seifert, an expert in industrial relations and HMIC Bernard Hogan-Howe. Tom Winsor who is currently conducting the review into police pay and conditions of service was invited to attend but declined to do so.

In the 'Constables Comment' session that followed, the Policing Minister was asked if he would resign if crime went up on his watch; a question he was not prepared to provide a direct answer to. He also refused to accept that a Royal Commission into policing was needed and disagreed with Prof. Seifert who stated 'the only thing you get for less, is less'.

Following the question and answer session Professor Bob Elliott from Aberdeen University gave a presentation on the economic implications of the reviews into policing. According to Mr Elliot, the Winsor review will leave PC's on completion of training cumulatively over the next two years, £4 695 worse off. He stated savings were also being made by reducing back office functions.

Prof. Elliott warned that if the Hutton recommendations are imposed, pensions will become related to career average earnings; contributions will increase and pensions will be linked to the CPI and not the RPI. Prof. Elliott went on to explain that in the broader current economic climate where inflation is now higher than during the recession; tax, national insurance and VAT have all gone up and benefits have been cut. This means household incomes are being squeezed, the impact of which will be felt harder next year.

Paul Barker, General Secretary informed the



Conference that negotiations have commenced at the Police Negotiating Board in relation to Winsor and that constable numbers in England and Wales have already dropped by almost a thousand in the last twelve months. He also spoke of the campaigns the CCC had run during 2010 including 'The Real Policing Pledge' to highlight issues facing the constable rank.

Elections for the Central Committee took place during the conference. This resulted in new members for Wales; Zac Mader, and London; Rick Nelson.

The executive of the CCC were elected after the conclusion of Conference. Julie Nesbit remains Chairman. Paul Barker, General Secretary and Paul Davis, Deputy General Secretary. Will Riches was elected Vice Chairman.

The following link provides Youtube footage of the Conference.

www.youtube.com/user/constablescommittee

