

Changes could sink policing, warn inspectors

The police service needs an impartial commission or it could sink like the Titanic, warned Alan Jones, chair of the Inspectors' Central Committee.

Addressing senior officers at the Federation's annual conference he said that the service is missing "cohesion, co-ordination, and clarity" and that the government is taking a "ramshackle and piecemeal approach" to changes.

Mr Jones said the police service is being subject to "experimentation" through recommendations made in reports such as Winsor's review of police pay and conditions and Peter Neyroud's review on leadership and training, as well as the introduction of police commissioners.

The ICC supports an "urgent independent and impartial commission into policing" to look at the future structure, shape and delivery of policing to ensure that policing is not "heading towards the same fate as the Titanic".

A national survey carried out by the Federation has found that the inspecting ranks are often working more than 40 hours a week and suffer frequent disruption to their family life. Mr Jones predicts that the service could lose up to 15,000 in the inspecting ranks over the next few years, and the superintending rank has already seen a nine percent reduction over the last 12 months.

One example from the survey states how a detective inspector worked a nine-hour shift, went home on call, was called out at 10.30pm to a domestic murder, worked a further 25 hours without a break – two days without sleep – and finally went home still to be on-call.

Mr Jones said: "Conference, no one should be required or expected to work or be available for such exhausting hours; the 1994 pay agreement was not a licence for management to impose, abuse or exploit inspecting rank members in the way we are witnessing today."

The 1994 pay agreement meant senior ranks received an increase in salary but lost their entitlement to overtime.

Alan Jones warned the service could sink "like the Titanic"



Loss of experienced officers could impact on Olympic policing

The Federation is concerned that the loss of experienced officers could impact on the policing of the Olympic games.

John Coppen, chair of the Police Federation Olympic Working Group, said Winsor report recommendations around mutual aid, overtime and competency related threshold payments (CRTP) "could not have come at a worse time" for trying to convince officers to support the London Games.

He added: "I don't know what affect Winsor, the budget cuts or A19 might have on the Games but I do know that the ACPO Olympic business area is concerned by the loss of experienced and skilled officers, and are monitoring the situation closely."

The report recommends scrapping CRTP and reducing overtime payments, while some forces are using A19, which effectively forces officers with 30 years' service to retire.

Around 70,000 policing shifts during the Olympics will be carried out by officers on mutual aid, and the majority of the estimated 330,000 shifts during the Games will be performed by non-specialist officers.

Mr Coppen explained that the basic mutual aid duty pattern for non-specialist officers would be:

- day one – travelling to an accommodation venue
- days two to six – deployed on eight-hour tours of duty with a built-in overtime period of four hours
- day seven – returning to force area.

"It will then be for forces to manage the returned officers' rest days," he said.

Mr Coppen said a number of issues still need to be addressed, including the disposition of Federation resources, conduct arrangements and accreditation. These will be resolved, he said, through consultation with Federation representatives from the host forces.

The loss of experienced and skilled officers could have a major impact on policing the Olympics, said John Coppen

