

Officers accuse Home Secretary of failing to fight for police

Police officers accused Theresa May of not fighting her corner on police funding as she came under fire at the Federation's annual conference.

Clive Chamberlain, chairman of Dorset Police Federation, asked the Home Secretary why Liam Fox, Defence Secretary, was able to get defence cuts lowered but she was "complicit" in cutting the police budget by 20 percent.

During his main speech Paul McKeever, chairman of the Police Federation, showed a diagram of spending in different departments, and hit out at the amount of money spent on international aid in comparison to police spending.

He said that while "billions" of additional money had been found for overseas development, and the defence budget had seen a cut of seven percent, the police service faced cuts of nearly three times this figure.

Officers in the auditorium laughed when the Home Secretary defended the international aid budget as "tackling terrorism" when some police officers in the UK face redundancy and cuts.

But Ms May defended her position, saying they did "fight rigorously on the police budget", and that there are cuts across the public sector because of the UK deficit. She said other political parties would have cut £7 for every £8 the Conservatives were cutting, and that MoD cuts had to be balanced against overhanging debts so the cuts were deeper than they seemed.

Ms May said that jobs could be saved and efficiency savings in forces could be made through other means – such as through IT procurement, which could save £700 million.

One officer from the Met Police Federation questioned whether officers would be facing such hardships if they had the right to strike, adding that rail workers had the ability to close the railways and police officers would have the "power to close the UK".

Ms May said she accepted the fact that police officers could not withdraw their labour and that she had asked Tom Winsor to consider this special status when compiling his report on pay and conditions.

Ian Leyland, general secretary of Merseyside Police Federation, asked if the Home Secretary had any good news for police officers when 98 percent in a Federation survey said morale was low.

She replied that they had tried to restore officers' discretion and remove binding targets so police officers could get on with their jobs.

Public will be biggest loser in police shake-up

The government wants to destroy the police in order to rebuild it in its image, John Giblin, the chair of the Sergeants' Central Committee has warned.

Speaking at the annual Police Federation conference, Mr Giblin told police minister Nick Herbert that the service had entered a period of "doom, gloom and despondency".

In a rousing address to delegates, he warned the public would be the "biggest loser" of the 20 percent budget cuts and slammed the government's plans for American-style elected commissioners without any checks and balances, branding them "deeply flawed" and "un-British".

In a well-received speech peppered with rounds of applause Mr Giblin said: "Placing so much power in the hands of one person poses great risks to policing and jeopardises the centuries old operational independence of the police."

Mr Giblin called for a "desperately needed" Royal Commission but added: "The government will not allow it, for they will not be able to determine or control its outcomes."

Officers are angry over the Home Secretary's failure to fight for police funding



John Giblin warned that the public will be the biggest loser from the funding cuts

