

# FRONTLINE VIEWS

## OFFICER CASE STUDY

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**“I joined the job to make a difference, to protect the vulnerable and stamp out unfairness. Now it seems that it’s me who is vulnerable and who is being treated unfairly.”**

**Police Sergeant, Dorset**

### **Officer Profile**

28 years old

6 years service

Married to another police officer, 9 years service.

One child, aged 2. Expecting another child.

### **Realities of the job**

“Working opposite shift patterns means that my husband and I rarely see each other, and our son often wakes up with relatives so that we can get to work on time. No nursery will let you drop your child off at 6am or keep them overnight whilst you work nights. We accept these inconveniences as exigencies of the service, but the disruption to our family life has not been recognised. We have both been assaulted on duty, most recently my husband was stabbed in the hand with broken glass and I was sexually assaulted by a detainee I was transporting to custody in a car. Nobody else faces that kind of violence or indignity at work, and it makes you worry for the safety and security of your children.”

### **What will the proposed changes mean for you?**

“Expecting a new baby should be a happy time, but we had to have a serious conversation about whether my pregnancy should continue. The combined impact of pay freezes, rising living costs and the loss of overtime and allowances means that we really do not know how we would afford

another child, and we considered termination. That is not the sort of decision that a hard-working professional couple in their twenties should have to make. Pension contributions are not taken into account when calculating Tax Credits, so we do not qualify for state help and Police Regulations prohibit us from taking on second jobs. It really makes you contemplate leaving. “

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**Cuts are Criminal**