

SHADOW HOME SECRETARY



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Paul McKeever  
Police Federation of England and Wales  
Federation House  
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Surrey  
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Dear Paul,

I understand the concerns that you and many of your members have in relation to the changes to police pay and conditions.

As you know, we believe that the public sector does have to make substantial savings and the police must play their part. I know that the Police Federation has recognised the need for savings and I have not spoken to a single police officer who doesn't understand the need for spending restraint and pay restraint.

However, you know too my dismay at the way the Government has handled this issue, and the scale and pace of the cuts it has introduced, making it even harder to deliver savings in a sustainable way.

We have made clear that Labour would have cut the police budget by 12% over the course of a Parliament, which Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary recognised as deliverable. The Government has gone for 20%, with the biggest cuts in the first two years, ignoring independent advice and the damage their policies are doing on the ground.

This has combined to make it an attack on the police, not an attack on waste. Rather than sustainable savings over a Parliament, we are seeing the loss of 16,000 police officers, low morale across the country, and confused reform that is limiting officers' ability to do their job.

I believe it is hugely important for the Government to recognise the damage it is doing to police morale and the consequences for policing.

I respect the decision of the Police Federation to accept the conclusions of the Police Arbitration Tribunal even though that will be difficult for many officers. Like you, we believe that the Home Secretary should also accept the conclusions of the PAT in good faith. The PAT conclusions will in themselves mean very significant savings.

