

# POLICE

## Police Magazine Update

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### **Pensions proposals make officers see red**

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The police service could go into free-fall after a raft of proposed changes to police pensions, pay and conditions dent police morale, according to Paul McKeever, chair of the Police Federation.

Mr McKeever's comments come on the back of the announcement by Home Secretary Theresa May this week that police officers will have to pay more into their pensions under the proposals.

Police officers from across the country have been calling and emailing the Federation offices to say the combination of the pay cuts and possible pension increases will put them in 'severe' financial difficulty.

The extra pension payments would range between 1.5 and four percent during the next three years as Ms May says the increase is needed to help raise £2.8 bn to fill the spending deficit.

Mr McKeever said: "We are receiving calls from officers across the country that will be in severe financial difficulties due to the government's attack on police officers' pay, pensions and conditions of service. Ninety eight percent of the service is demoralised and 90 percent are looking to leave the service or know someone who is looking to leave. The service could go into free-fall if the government doesn't review its policies affecting police officers, the police service and the communities we serve. The government is creating a perfect storm for police officers. They need to step back and review what they're doing as a matter of urgency. The first duty of any government is the protection of its citizens. The government appear to be playing fast and loose with public safety."

Constables who have recently joined the service and came into the pension scheme after 2006, paying in 9.5 percent of their wages, would have to add an extra £349 every year by 2015 on top of their regular pension payments. Constables on the top pay scale who joined after 1987, paying in 11 percent of their wages, would need to pay an extra £1,169 a year, under the proposed changes.

The average sergeant will pay £1,249 extra, inspectors £1,582 and superintendents £2,800 into the pension pot. This would come on top of a two-year pay freeze and cuts to special priority payments, competency related threshold payments and overtime.

Ian Rennie, general secretary of the Federation, says they will do 'everything to ensure that the value of police officers' pensions continues to reflect the difficult job we do to protect the public on a day-to-day basis'.