

# POLICE

## Police Magazine Update

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### Labour pledge a review of policing

Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper promised an independent review into policing as she heard first-hand the anger of constables around the country at a national meeting this week.

Ms Cooper spoke to almost 100 police constable Federation representatives from all over England and Wales at the meeting, organised by the Federation's Constables' Central Committee (CCC) in Stoke this week.

As a number of officers spoke out about their frustration with the way the government is treating them and ignoring their pleas to reconsider slicing police officer numbers, she showed her support for a Royal Commission, or an overarching review into the future of policing, and vowed that 'Labour will conduct an independent review of policing if government fails to do so'.

Ms Cooper thanked police officers for their dedication and agreed with them that communities will pay a huge price if the Government ploughs ahead with 20 percent cuts to policing.

PC John Bowman from Northumbria expressed deep disappointment at the lack of respect shown by the current Home Secretary Theresa May in recent months. He told attendees that 'it was high time we had a Home Secretary who fights for us and not with us.' PC Dave Bennett, from the Metropolitan Police, highlighted the ignorance of the government, and their adviser Tom Winsor, to think that removing back office staff onto the frontline will lead to improved or more efficient policing.

He added: "It was experienced, so-called backroom officers, who devised intelligence packs, identified targets and filled custody suites during the recent riots. The frontline officers simply won't be able to do their job without the support from their back-office colleagues."

Ms Cooper accused David Cameron and Theresa May of behaving like 'armchair police officers' during the recent riots.

Julie Nesbit, Chair of the CCC complimented her colleagues from all over England and Wales for their professionalism, commitment and flexibility shown during the recent riots.

"Officers used their skills and expertise to effectively and efficiently deal with spontaneous riots that swept across the country. They also provided reassurance and comfort to many people who had seen their lives and homes destroyed. As a result, our communities are now starting to understand the true value of their police service and are rightly concerned about the threat to our role and their safety."

Ms Nesbit reminded attendees that it was important to highlight the pressures placed on officers who had to get on with "everyday policing" while their colleagues were dealing with the riots around the country.

"We also need to recognise the additional demands that were placed on our colleagues who were policing as usual with a significantly reduced work force as a result of the mutual aid deployments. With events such as the Olympics and the ever present terror threat, the government would do well to value our professionalism and dedication."