

Officers avoid pay freeze in first year

Police officers will narrowly escape having their pay frozen later this year after the government agreed to honour the three-year pay deal struck by the Police Negotiating Board.

Chancellor George Osborne announced a two-year pay freeze for those earning more than £21,000 across the public sector in last month's emergency budget.

However, delegates at the Police Federation Conference in May were given assurances by Home Secretary Theresa May and police minister Nick Herbert that the final year of the pay deal for police officers, which comes into effect in September, will be honoured.

Reacting to the budget Ian Rennie, general secretary of the Police Federation, said he had spoken to the Home Office and the pay freeze will not impact on the final instalment of the three-year pay deal.

There will, however, be a review of officers' terms and conditions as Labour minister John Hutton looks at public sector pensions, and there will also be a review of fair pay by economist Will Hutton.

Mr Rennie said the Home Secretary and police minister have been assured the Police Federation will be fully involved in any consultation. He added: "We await more details but have made clear to the Home Secretary that policing is a uniquely demanding profession, and that the government must ensure that the dangers inherent in our role are fairly reflected in our terms and conditions."

Mr Osborne said in his speech: "We need to do something about the spiralling costs of public sector pensions." He added: "Millions of people in the private sector have seen their pay frozen, their hours reduced, and their pension benefits restricted. They have accepted this because they knew that the alternative in many cases was further job losses.

"The public sector now faces a similar trade off."

Budget summary

- A two-year pay freeze for public sector workers earning more than £21,000. Those earning less than £21,000 will receive a flat rate increase of £250 a year
- The John Hutton review of public sector pensions will report in time for next year's Budget
- On top of those announced by Alistair Darling, there will be additional cuts worth £30 billion a year by 2014-15
- Departmental budgets will be cut by 25 percent over four years; details will be in the Autumn Spending Review in October 2010
- No further capital spending cuts beyond those set out by Darling, but investment priorities will be set out in the Autumn Review
- VAT will rise to 20 percent from January 2011
- Councils will receive help to freeze council tax for one year from 2011
- Capital gains tax rose to 28 percent for higher earners from midnight on 22 June
- The basic rate income tax threshold will rise by £1,000 from April 2011, the higher rate threshold will be frozen until 2013-14
- The employers' NI contributions threshold will rise from £110 to £131 from April 2011

News in focus!

Federation general secretary Ian Rennie has been assured by the Home Office that the public sector pay freeze will not affect the police three-year pay deal



Photography: Police Federation

The government announced a raft of budget cuts and pay freezes in the budget



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