

Concern over cull of senior officers

Senior officers are concerned that police resilience could be under threat if chief constables slash superintendent ranks as part of wider cuts to funding.

Derek Barnett, President of the Superintendents' Association, outlined his concerns in a letter to ACPO president Sir Hugh Orde in a bid to highlight the depth [of feeling over the issue.

Senior officers from all forces attended an extraordinary meeting to discuss the threats to resilience last month. It comes as forces look for ways to tighten their belts as police budgets come under pressure. Police minister Nick Herbert has already announced a cut of £125 million in police funding for 2010-11 (see table right).

Mr Barnett told *Police* magazine that although some chief constables have been clear about how they value the rank, others are seeking to cut numbers. He added: "This can mean that the number of chief inspectors in particular is being reduced; they are the people who support superintendents and give resilience at a local command level.

"Some forces are also considering moving superintendents and chief superintendents from local areas and bringing them into headquarters, but to me that is folly. The new coalition government are talking about localism, and it seems some chief constables are going against that philosophy."

Police magazine reported in February that an Operational Policing Review in Surrey was set to cut numbers of inspectors up to chief superintendents by more than a third.

Kieran Diamond, chair of Surrey Police Federation, said: "The impact on resilience of reducing numbers by 35 percent is that the work will have to be spread out. It's going to be very difficult to deliver the same quality of service if demands on policing keep increasing."

New police settlement and capital grant

	2010/11 HO Police Grant as agreed Feb 2010	2010/11 Proposed amended HO Police Grant	2010/11 Capital Grant notified Jan 2010	2010/11 Amended Capital Grant
English Authorities				
Avon & Somerset	116.1	113.5	3.3	3.0
Bedfordshire	44.6	43.6	1.3	1.2
Cambridgeshire	52.9	51.7	1.6	1.5
Cheshire	69.9	68.2	2.2	2.0
City of London	23.3	22.3	1.1	1.0
Cleveland	51.6	50.3	1.6	1.5
Cumbria	35.1	34.1	1.1	1.0
Derbyshire	69.6	68.0	2.0	1.9
Devon & Cornwall	117.0	114.4	3.4	3.2
Dorset	43.5	42.6	1.3	1.2
Durham	47.8	46.5	1.6	1.4
Essex	117.5	114.9	3.2	3.0
GLA (Met)	1,169.5	1,141.5	38.4	36.0
Gloucestershire	37.8	36.9	1.2	1.1
Greater Manchester	253.2	246.8	7.4	6.9
Hampshire	130.7	127.8	3.9	3.6
Hertfordshire	81.3	79.5	2.3	2.1
Humberside	72.7	70.9	2.2	2.0
Kent	123.4	120.7	3.5	3.3
Lancashire	116.8	113.9	3.5	3.2
Leicestershire	70.5	68.8	2.1	2.0
Lincolnshire	44.0	43.1	1.2	1.1
Merseyside	142.2	138.4	4.2	3.9
Norfolk	55.6	54.3	1.7	1.6
North Yorkshire	49.1	48.0	1.5	1.4
Northamptonshire	47.0	45.9	1.4	1.3
Northumbria	117.4	113.9	4.1	3.8
Nottinghamshire	82.7	80.7	2.4	2.2
Staffordshire	73.2	71.5	2.1	2.0
South Yorkshire	110.2	107.4	3.3	3.1
Suffolk	45.5	44.5	1.4	1.3
Surrey	71.5	70.1	2.3	2.1
Sussex	107.6	105.2	3.1	2.9
Thames Valley	157.0	153.6	4.6	4.3
Warwickshire	35.1	34.4	1.5	1.5
West Mercia	74.7	73.0	2.3	2.1
West Midlands	277.4	270.5	7.9	7.3
West Yorkshire	194.0	189.2	5.6	5.2
Wiltshire	42.1	41.1	1.3	1.2
Welsh Authorities				
Dyfed-Powys	35.2	34.4	1.0	0.9
Gwent	48.6	47.5	1.4	1.3
North Wales	48.5	47.4	1.5	1.4
South Wales	105.5	102.9	3.0	2.8
TOTAL	4,808.8	4,693.8	146.7	136.7

Senior officers fear a cull of inspector and superintendent ranks

Revised police funding figures have been cut by £125m

