



## 2011 Christmas Message

19.12.11.

There can be no doubt that this has been a tough year for policing, with even more challenges still to come as we look to the year ahead. Over the past 12 months we have seen the service respond to unprecedented demands on its manpower, resources, and resolve. The widespread rioting of August will, moving forward, be seen as one of the greatest public order challenges in the history of British policing, while every element of our business, from neighbourhood policing, to counter-terrorism and the fight against serious organised crime, has felt the effects as we strive to maintain our service to the public with less money.

Each day across the country, hundreds of thousands of dangers are confronted, crimes prevented or solved, and incidents both minor and major dealt with professionally and without fanfare. That is the reality, despite commentary, headlines and criticism which too many times focuses on the negative. There is no doubt that the public understands this, supports policing and wants us to succeed.

Looking ahead, there is uncertainty over the national policing landscape, and how the government's sweeping policing reforms to local governance – the most radical in a century – will affect the day-to-day working of forces. We can only wait to see how the push of localism will be balanced with the pull of national security concerns. In addition, we understand that the uncertainty about future pay, terms and conditions of service and pensions has been at the forefront of people's minds. Moreover, forces will face their toughest challenge yet with ensuring the safety and security of the British public, and those from all over the world, through the policing of the London 2012 Games.

Against this backdrop we will unquestionably see our strength and resolve tested even more. However, the professionalism, dedication and bravery of our police officers, and the contribution of the staff that support them, continues to inspire, and there can be no doubt that British policing – as ever – will rise to, and meet these challenges.

While these are uncertain times, we are united in determination to set the best future possible for policing; to drive down crime, tackle anti-social behaviour, and with reducing resources do the very best we can for the public we serve.

We thank you all for your continued commitment to the public, diligence and hard work. Wishing you, your families and loved ones a safe and happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Derek Barnett, President, Police Superintendents' Association of England & Wales**

**Paul McKeever, Chairman, Police Federation of England and Wales**

**Sir Hugh Orde, President, Association of Chief Police Officers**