

POLICE

Police Magazine Update

30/01/12

Serious financial hardship for officers following Home Secretary decision

Home Secretary Theresa May has agreed to back the recommendations on police pay and conditions announced by the independent Police Arbitration Tribunal.

Police officers across England and Wales have been waiting to hear the decision on what will happen to their pay packets and a whole raft of changes proposed to their conditions.

At an event organised by think-tank Reform, the Home Secretary said she had considered the report by the Police Arbitration Tribunal 'thoroughly'.

She added in a statement: "I have decided to accept its recommendation and am minded to implement the package of reforms it has put forward in full."

Ms May added: "These reforms represent an important first step in modernising police pay and conditions so that they are fair to taxpayers."

The changes include redistributing pay to officers who work unsocial hours, abolishing 'ineffective' post-related payments (SPPs), and allowing chief officers to be able to change officers' shift arrangements without agreement from federation representatives.

Responding to the decision by the Home Secretary to implement the PAT decision in full, together with those Winsor recommendations already agreed by the Staff Side and Official Side of PNB, Paul McKeever, chair of the Police Federation of England and Wales, says they are pleased she has honoured the decision.

However, he added: "Whilst we accept that the decision of the PAT is binding on both Sides of PNB, it does not mean that we're happy with the outcome. Whichever way you dress it up, this will mean serious financial hardship for police officers.

"Let's not forget, this government is unduly targeting police officers. In addition to what amounts to a four-year public sector pay freeze and increased pension contributions, police officers are having to contend with a range of changes to terms and conditions; the result of which is effectively a pay cut."

Mr McKeever said that officers have no industrial rights and no means to negotiate on pensions and vowed to fight on as Winsor Part Two looms on the horizon and could potentially leave more officers at a further financial disadvantage.

A spokesperson from ACPO said the changes would have 'a significant impact on many staff' but added that it is right that those working unsocial hours should receive an additional payment. The Superintendents' Association released a statement to say they are pleased a decision has been made by the Home secretary which can 'draw a line under what has been a protracted and difficult period for police officers'.