

POLICE

Police Magazine Update

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Disappointment officers pay will be hit

The Federation has expressed disappointment about the decision by the Police Arbitration Tribunal which will leave many police officers out of pocket.

The PAT published its findings around far-reaching recommendations made in the Winsor Part 1 report yesterday which will result in thousands of police officers being 'angry and dismayed' about their future, according to Paul McKeever, chair of the Police Federation.

A decision by the PAT came after a failure to agree between the Staff Side, representing police officers and the Official Side, representing the employer and including the government and ACPO.

The decision presents a mixed bag for police officers. There will be a suspension of incremental progression for two years, although the first three steps of the constables' pay scale will be excluded, this could mean the loss of thousands for some. However, competency related threshold payments will remain, although applications for CRTPs will also be frozen until Winsor Part 2, looking at pay, is completed.

The estimated savings, if the recommendations are agreed by the Home Secretary, would be £163 million. Mr McKeever said the Federation had recognised the financial hardship in the country and had offered savings which would not have had such a detrimental impact on police officers. He argued the changes were not "about making fiscal savings but a conscious and deliberate attack on the police service".

He added: "The arbiters have taken account of elements of the Staff Side evidence in their ruling today and we appreciate that had we not fought against the Winsor recommendations then the government would have proceeded to implement them in full. So, whilst disappointed, we will stand by the arbiters' decision, which is a Police Negotiating Board agreement binding on both the Official Side and Staff Side. The decision as to whether to ratify this PNB agreement now rests with the Home Secretary."