

POLICE

Police Magazine Update

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Letter questions existence of officers interviewed for police pay review

Some of the police officers interviewed for the wide-ranging Winsor Review on police pay and conditions did not exist, according to a letter from the Police Federation.

The veracity of the research has been called into question in a letter sent to former rail regulator Tom Winsor by Ian Rennie, general secretary of the Police Federation.

In the letter Mr Rennie says that of the 200 individual police officers interviewed and 7,100 unattributed comments from police officers and staff in the online consultation – the report only identifies 60 officers from federated ranks.

The Federation has tried to verify some of the comments made in Part 1 of the report and ‘discovered that some of the officers do not actually exist’ and many have ‘rejected’ comments attributed to them.

The Winsor report includes recommendations on pay and conditions which will leave 40 percent of police officers worse off. Many officers made representations to the Police Federation over their concerns the changes would have a negative impact on their life, families and income.

However, some of the comments attributed in the report to officers such as ‘morale being low because they were receiving the same pay or less than colleagues in back-office roles’ have been challenged. The Federation letter states that while two named Kent officers did not appear to exist, another was on holiday when he was supposed to have spoken and a fourth said he did not recognise the statement attributed to him.

Mr Rennie said the Review is undermining the Office of Constable and would be detrimental to the service provided to the public

He said in his letter: “Despite your protestations it is clear that your Review has already had a detrimental impact on officers’ morale whatever their rank, whatever their force and whatever their role. Officers feel undervalued and unappreciated.”

A spokesperson for the Winsor Review said that police remuneration and conditions had been widely consulted with frontline officers and staff. Tom Winsor never claimed officers listed in the report agreed with his recommendations and all names of officers were given by officers themselves or their supervisors subsequently.