

POLICE

Police Magazine Update

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Federation highlights officers stepping into gaps left by striking workers

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Police officers will step into the breach to help fill key roles such as those at the UK Border Agency as strike action impacts on public services.

Paul McKeever, chair of the Police Federation, highlighted in a letter emailed to MPs today that despite frosty relations with the government, police officers are pitching in to help cover gaps left by striking workers across the public sector.

In the letter, Mr McKeever says that as 'the representative body of 136,000 police officers in England & Wales I felt it was important to provide you and your constituents with the reassurance that our members will, as ever, be striving to do all that they can to ensure that public order is maintained whilst respecting the rights of individuals to withdraw their labour - a right that police officers themselves do not have.'

The letter points to the flexibility of officers who are stepping into roles normally undertaken by UK Border Agency employees as well as cancelling rest days in order to cover services in police custody suites and call centres that are usually provided by civilian support staff.

This comes on the back of police officers already having their pay frozen for two years and a review of pay and conditions which could have a significant detrimental impact on their pay packets. Police pensions are also set to be changed yet again, despite officers already paying in some of the highest contributions in the public sector.

Mr McKeever states in the letter: 'But this will of course not stand in the way of their willingness and ability to use their skills, powers, commitment and sense of duty to ensure that the safety and security of the country is maintained.'