



Metin Enver, Managing Editor

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Real value of policing

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Last month, on the very day the Staff Side of the Police Negotiating Board met the Official Side in an attempt to secure a fair pay deal, the High Court returned a judgment that just about summed up the value placed on the life of a police officer by this Government and the judiciary.

Lawyers acting for David Bieber, the evil murderer of West Yorkshire PC Ian Broadhurst, had lodged an appeal to the High Court complaining that Bieber's human rights were being contravened as he had been sent down on a 'life meaning life' prison sentence. By late morning the news that Bieber's appeal had been upheld was announced.

For some bizarre and unimaginable reason the High Court, in its infinite wisdom, decided that the fate of this monster would be better served by reducing his term to an ordinary life sentence, with a recommendation that he serve a minimum of 37 years.

As you would expect, locally and nationally the Federation expressed absolute disgust. I mean, did Bieber think about the human rights of PC Broadhurst and his family as he brutally gunned him down at point blank range? National Chairman Paul McKeever has written to the newly appointed Lord Chief Justice demanding this decision be reversed.

But let's not forget; this is the same High Court that only a few months ago determined that police officers were not betrayed and cheated of monies last year when the Home Secretary robbed the service of 0.6 per cent by backdating the award to 1st December, thereby devaluing it to 1.9 per cent.

So why the hell would we think the High Court would consider the murder of a police officer warrants a 'life meaning life' sentence?

And all this comes as we embark on yet another dispute for fair pay fighting the Government's insulting offer of 2.325 per cent.

Well, with this type of support is it any wonder police officers feel undervalued and demoralised.

We now know just how much police officers are valued by our Government and the judiciary.