



Metin Enver, Managing Editor

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Couldn't possibly comment...?

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September should be a good month for osteopaths in Manchester as hundreds of Labour MPs and party activists gather for their annual Party conference and customary arduous back patting.

But quite what they have to celebrate this year is beyond me. For another year running they have managed to distance themselves further from the 140,000 police officers in England and Wales. But this year we are not alone. Unions and staff associations representing hundreds of thousands of workers in the public sector have had enough of watching the government preach of prudence and wage restraint whilst finding loopholes to ensure they themselves are not out of pocket.

I couldn't have put it better myself than when former Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, in an attempt to defend Prime Minister Gordon Brown's record as leader likened the situation to the Titanic ship which sank after hitting an iceberg on its maiden voyage. In his blog Prescott claimed 'It wasn't the Captain that sank the Titanic – a ship they claimed was unsinkable – it was the iceberg. The best way to avoid disaster is to manage your way around the problem.'

Hardly the best analogy. The government certainly don't seem to be managing the public sector pay backlash well, and I seem to recollect that the fat cats on board the Titanic looked after themselves at the expense of those less fortunate souls.

So, how do we make any impact on this government? I regret to say it is only votes they are interested in.

Strange then, that they are prepared to so readily dismiss the number of votes cast by police families throughout the UK. With 170,000 UK officers, partners and offspring we must be looking in excess of half a million votes. In many marginal constituencies that's the difference between a safe seat and a lost seat.

The Police Federation of England and Wales is rightly an apolitical organisation, independent of any political party affiliation. Am I then suggesting we make our protest that way? Well, in the words of the fictional Prime Minister Francis Urquhart from the BBC series *House of Cards*, 'you might very well think that, I couldn't possibly comment.'