

Chairman's Opening Speech – Conference 2016

[Run Believe in Blue VT]

Colleagues..

Guests...

Delegates.....

Welcome to Bournemouth for the last time and our 92nd Annual conference.

This year our conference theme is all about the hard work that our colleagues do across the country.

It's all about the commitment and dedication of over 120,000 police officers in the communities of England and Wales and as you have seen from that film, it's all about making clear to the public, media and politicians, the value, importance and professionalism of our men and women in blue.

The last twelve months have been challenging for policing, challenging for our members and challenging for our organisation.

I am immensely proud of what we, what you have achieved in these tough times.

Day in and day out we have been representing, influencing the powers that be and helping thousands of our members past and present.

If ever there was evidence to show the value we bring, this last year has been it.

We won the argument which was our strap line last year.

Cuts have consequences and the government halted the planned further cuts.

We won the argument over compulsory severance which was being considered again by Chiefs, deciding if they had to ask for legislative change to give them the option.

They backed down.

We spent more money this year on legal support for our members than in the history of our great organisation, despite subscriptions remaining the same for the fourth year running.

But it's not just the big high profile cases.

It's more about those smaller but no less important issues that you as local representatives work hard to resolve to make the lot of our members better, and the lot

of policing as a whole better, particularly in the midst of all the changes being encountered at a Force level.

A new shift pattern here, a new operating model there, a new abstraction policy and that often missed minimum staffing level policy.

All vital areas where you, the local Federations have had major influence.

And I am delighted to announce that this week we will be officially launching the National Members' Database.

After years of effort and negotiation with Chief Officers and the Home Office, with your help and support, we are on the cusp of a monumental moment for the organisation.

Direct communication with the entire membership.

Please do visit the PFEW stand in the exhibition hall to find out more and see how it will operate.

As a service, we have much to be proud of.

Last October we celebrated the Police Bravery Awards' 20th anniversary.

Once again, supported by Police Mutual, it was an opportunity to showcase the everyday heroic acts of officers across the country.

The modesty of those officers who simply say they were just 'doing their job'.

Congratulations to the joint overall winners – PCs Adam Koch and Jean Stevens from West Midlands Police.

And PC Winston Mugarura from the Metropolitan Police Service.

Let's just remind ourselves of the 64 nominees....

[Run Bravery VT]

In July this year we are hosting the 2016 Police Bravery Awards. I look forward to welcoming the 70 nominees from 40 forces and hearing their brave stories.

Many of the issues facing our members we will be discussing this week.

We have a packed agenda and my thanks must go to all who have contributed to make this conference what I know will be a huge success.

We have sessions on protecting the vulnerable and looking after our officers who do this demanding work.

We have a session on the older workforce, an update on the roll out of work tackling the huge issue of assaults on officers and a session concerning devolution and how it could affect policing in Wales and England in the future.

We look at the future of women in policing, the continuing problems with prosecutions of officers simply doing their best in pursuits without adequate protection.

We have Sir Thomas P Winsor, the Chief HMIC, paying his first visit for two years to talk about Peel Inspections; the chair of the Police Chiefs' Council talking about specialist capabilities; and we have the Shadow Home Secretary, who has recently made some interesting comments about misconduct in the service.

Unconscious Bias; the College of Policing and a hugely important session on just how blue the thin blue line is and the mental health pressures on those that serve.

And talking of our own mental health, later this morning we have the longest serving Home Secretary ever coming to address us.

But not before this wolf in sheep's clothing has a few words to say.

It all adds up to a fascinating week and I know I can count on you all to work hard, be professional and to really get involved in YOUR conference.

As many of you will be aware, the Police Federation is being featured in a new ITN production entitled 'Policing for the future', hosted by Natasha Kaplinsky.

The programme covers issues around firearms, body-worn cameras and safeguarding officers' wellbeing and mental health.

This cost PFEW nothing and our thanks go to ITN and those companies who kindly supported its production.

ITN also have an exhibition stand here at conference, so please do visit them and make them welcome.

Before I get to my thank yous and the formal opening of conference 2016, let's have a taster of the film.....

[Run ITN VT]

Conference, can I take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and commercial partners.

I would also like to thank the staff here at the Bournemouth International Centre and our Dorset colleagues for all they have done to ensure the smooth running of this event so far and for the week ahead.

Thanks also to our Police Federation staff, to NARPO, to the stewards and scrutineers and to our amazing events team - Glasgows.

Thanks also to the Conference Arrangements Committee.

You have all worked so hard to make this week happen.

Thank you.

I also have a few notices before we proceed.

Our exhibition this year is again in the Solent Hall.

We are very grateful to all our exhibitors who have come along this year and continue to support us.

Please do make time to go and take a look around the many excellent stands.

There are no fire alarms tests that we are aware of so, in the event of an alarm, please follow the fire exit signs to leave the building at the nearest exit to you.

Colleagues; we now come to the formal opening of conference.

Firstly, can I inform you that the Annual Public Value Report for 2015/16 is now available on the Police Federation website.

I ask you to adopt regulations and standing orders and also the Conference Arrangements Committee terms of reference and constitution as detailed in the 1st, 3rd and 4th report.

Can you show me hands that you accept?

Thank you.

We also have to approve the scrutineers as detailed in the 5th report.

Can I ask the chief scrutineer Paul Large to step forward and make himself known.

Thank you Paul.

We also have to approve the stewards for conference.

Can I see a show of hands to approve the stewards?

Thank you.

Can I ask Mike Hickman, the chief steward, to step forward to make himself known.

Thank you Mike.

Lastly, can we note the Trustees to the Joint Central Committee?

Noted? Thank you.

Now can I invite Kevin Lansdale of the Conference Arrangements Committee to come to the stage.

Whilst Kevin is coming to the stage, I would like to take this opportunity to again thank him and the CAC for all they do. Thank you all.

[CAC CHAIR approx. 3 mins]

Thank you Kevin.

Colleagues, this is your conference.

Let's make the most of the time we are here. We have the opportunity to learn, to share and to question our political and policing leaders.

Please enjoy.

[END]