

## The Station Sergeant is... handing over the readies

They don't all wear masks, highwaymen. Or highwaywomen in this case, as the latter-day Dick Turpin in question favours leopard skin kitten heels.

Our own beloved Home Secretary will doubtless welcome the decision of the Police Arbitration Tribunal to let her rummage around in our wallets or purses and help herself to whatever is in there.

This will save about £160 million, which the government can then go and squander on something else, like more corporate hospitality suites at the Olympics. Meanwhile you and I will just have to tighten our belts a bit further.

**Maybe our political overlords, when they next go to greet their adoring public, will find out that we, whom they rely on to protect them, are significantly hacked off. And our expensive uniforms wouldn't need dry cleaning if we duck when eggs or tomatoes are being thrown at those political nonentities robbing us blind.**

It's not all bad news though. Special Priority Payments are to go, and good riddance. They were highly divisive and allowed our chiefs to bribe staff to work in whichever part of policing was their particular favourite hobby horse. Now they'll just have to order us to do it I suppose.

Meanwhile, ACPO ranks and the superintendents are graciously foregoing their performance bonuses to show us



Photography: Andrew Carruth

we are all in this together. Still, the *Daily Mail* will feel better. According to them we are in the top 20 percent of earners in the country, when you tot up all our bonuses including overtime. Heaven forbid we might actually earn more than some of those journalists who slag us off so readily, and whose presence at the scene of public disorder often seems to encourage some rioters to play up even more for the cameras.

Maybe our political overlords, when they next go to greet their adoring public, will find out that we, whom they rely on to protect them, are significantly hacked off. And our expensive uniforms wouldn't need dry cleaning if we duck when eggs or tomatoes are being thrown at those political nonentities who are robbing us blind.