

# **Home Secretary's Plans for a Pay Review Body for Police Officers Condemned by Federation**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

This week the Home Secretary has announced an 8 week consultation process to introduce a pay review body for police officers. This would replace the current machinery (Police Negotiating Board) that has served so well for the last 28 years and which recognises the restrictions placed upon police officers and their unique status within society.

Ian Pointon, Chairman of Kent Police Federation says,

“Having read her ministerial statement, the Home Secretary has shown herself to be petty, vindictive and unworthy of the high office she holds. It is clear to all that because we haven't done her bidding over a multi-year pay deal she is going to impose a pay review body.”

He continues,

“Do not be fooled into believing there is going to be 8 weeks of meaningful consultation; this is a done deal. The Home Secretary's proposals are a direct lift of Sir Clive Booth's recommendations of December 2007; recommendations made against the weight of evidence submitted to him during his supposed independent review of police pay.”

Additionally,

“Importantly for the public this is an unwelcome distraction for police officers; instead of fighting crime they're fighting for fair pay, a fight they have to conduct with both hands tied behind their backs. Pay review bodies do not provide good employee/employer working relations – ask any teacher, nurse or prison officer. It is clear this is yet another attempt to short change police officers. Last year the Home Secretary cheated officers out of their pay rise and she appears to have learned nothing from the storm that followed.”

He concludes,

“Jacqui Smith is intent on taking advantage of police officers' inability to take any form of industrial action and that is reprehensible especially from a Labour Home Secretary. Her actions only serve to increase the calls from officers to be allowed to take industrial action. It is time for her to go and be replaced with someone who can start to rebuild the bridges with the police service.”

**MEDIA RELEASE ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

- The Official Side of Police Negotiating Board put forward a recommendation of 2.325% for the 2008/09 pay settlement for police officers.
- Following the debacle over police pay last year this offer was unacceptable to Staff Side of PNB and rejected.
- Using the median of the IDS Index (a mix of public and private sector salaries) the Staff Side put forward a counter claim of 3.5%.
- Although the option of a multi-year deal was discussed in 'behind the Chair' conversations, at no time was any formal three-year offer made to whole of Staff Side by the whole of Official Side in the PNB meeting.
- At the July PNB meeting there was a failure to agree registered by the independent Chairman of PNB and the matter referred to the independent Police Arbitration Tribunal (PAT).
- The PAT hearing is scheduled for 21 October 2008.