

Chairman's Office Report

Paul McKeever, Chairman

Simon Reed, Vice-Chairman

Death of Arthur Evans
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26th March 2011

Arthur Evans – Kent Constabulary

On Friday 25th March in Charing, Kent, the Chairman attended the funeral of Arthur Evans, born 1916. Arthur had been the General Secretary to the Federation JCC during the 1950's and early 1960's. Prior to joining Kent Police he served with the Irish Guards as a regular and spent 5 years as a POW in Germany during WWII. He is survived by his wife Freda.

The Chairman laid a wreath on behalf of The Police Federation of England and Wales.

The Government says frequently that 'we are all in this together' and that it believes in fairness. The Governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King, has stated that public sector workers are not to blame for what has happened to the economy. Well I have to say that it doesn't feel like that in the police service at the moment.

The spin and distortion that the government put out prior to the Winsor Review into our terms and conditions, was absolutely disgraceful. Terms such as, 'the police are overpaid', 'overtime scams' and 'Spanish Practices' were used. The term 'Spanish

Practices' is extremely offensive to many and should be consigned to the dustbin by the Home Office immediately. Such denigration of some of the finest men and women in the country who routinely put their lives at risk for the safety of others, including the Home Secretary is nothing short of scandalous.

Leaking stories into the press suggesting that some officers earn fortunes in overtime without saying that they are the very sort of men and women who put their lives on the lines protecting VIP's is the lowest form of insult and should shame those in government in whose name it was spun. The presence of spokespersons from one or two think-tanks at the centre of the media hysteria also begged the question, 'who is running the Home Office, the Home Secretary Theresa May, or Blair Gibbs from the think-tank Policy Exchange?'

When commentators speaking on behalf of the Home Office say that police officers are overpaid, ask them if they think PC Yvonne Fletcher, murdered by Gadaffi's henchmen was overpaid, or PC David Rathband who was shot by Raul Moat.

Whichever way you look at it what is happening to us it is patently unfair.

Cuts of 20% are three times that faced by the Department of Defence and in stark contrast to the 0% settled for the NHS and £4Billion increase in the budget for Overseas Development.

The Government has made a choice to cut policing by such a wide margin and it is therefore disgraceful that they should now say that we have to choose between jobs or wages. No-one else has been asked to make this ridiculous choice in the public sector. That Chief Constables seem to be supporting this position is extraordinary but reflects the paper ACPO produced last summer advocating cutting officers pay and conditions.

One argument that the government have put in relation to our pay is that we are paid better than others in the public service. If that is their logic and basis for change, then why no pay review for judges, doctors and MP's?

Whatever government wish to say in relation to the police budget it was their choice to cut by 20%. Either they got their figures terribly

wrong in the budget bid or they intended for this to happen to policing. Whichever it was they need to re-visit the police budget as a matter of urgency, or there will be some very real unintended consequences for the communities we serve and real suffering for many police officers.

It is unfair that we alone and uniquely within the public sector are going through a pay review and are being asked to have between £200 and £500 million taken out of our pay pot over and above a two year pay freeze and the review into pensions that every-one is facing in the public sector. We alone pay 11% of our wages into our pensions.

In March 2010 I wrote that whoever won the election would have three choices to reduce the deficit, cut public services, increase taxes and grow the economy. Back then I put in brackets - a fourth option, fuel inflation to cut the real size of the debt does not seem to be considered part of any realistic economic equation at the moment.

I couldn't imagine any responsible government would allow inflation to grow. I appear to have been wrong. The government seems tacitly content to allow inflation to grow, thereby reducing government debt. However, what that means for us is clear. The amount of spending power we would lose in a two year pay freeze will grow as inflation grows, rapidly eroding our pay and indirectly our pensions. That is unfair.

Government appear to be creating a perfect storm for policing and police officers. Think of the arguments made by defence chiefs pointing out the serious consequences to our national security where they are only facing 7% cuts and then ponder at the consequences of a 20% cut for policing. Yet our leaders within policing are silent in sharp contrast to the leaders in the armed services who have fought hard and haven't been shy to point out to government the consequences of their actions.

A year ago I also stated, *'we will all have to be on guard at all times during this period of great flux and uncertainty as 'modernisers' within the service will take the opportunity to try and push through as much change as they can during the coming storm. As Machiavelli said in his work 'The Prince' 'never waste a*

good crises' and my goodness those who want to reshape the police won't waste this opportunity. You have been warned'.

It appears that the modernisers within ACPO have driven their agenda with reckless disregard for the consequences for us and our pay, pensions and conditions of service and also for the communities we serve. They should hang their heads in shame.

So, the Home Secretary is deciding what she is going to do with the Winsor report and we are embarking on a campaign of action to defend ourselves and our families from the savage cuts that those in government wish to impose on us.

It is worth noting that many of those in government have no real comprehension of the effects the cuts could have on ordinary men and women trying to run a household budget. Those in government won't risk losing their houses or face having to turn their heating off next winter.

If you are reading this you can do your bit by going to see your MP and asking 'Do you support the 20% cut to policing?'

You can follow updates from us on

- ***Twitter – @PoliceFedChair – Chairman***

@Rimonseed – Vice-Chairman

- ***The Police Federation Website***

- ***YouTube*** where we will be doing regular updates during the coming months

Media Interviews – from 28th Jan – 25th March

- The Observer Newspaper
- BBC Radio 4 Today Programme
- The Independent Newspaper
- X's 6 Police Review

- Public Servant Magazine
- X's 2 Police Professional Magazine
- X's 6 SKY TV News
- Radio 4 PM Programme
- BBC Daily Politics Show
- BBC Radio Wales
- Talk Radio Europe
- The Morning Star
- The Sun
- The Daily Mirror
- GNS Local Radio
- The Times
- SKY The Adam Boulton Show
- Daily Express
- X's 3 Police Oracle
- The Economist Magazine
- X's 6 BBC Radio 5 Live
- X's 2 BBC TV News
- BBC Breakfast TV
- X's 3 The Press Association
- BBC Radio 2
- X's 2 ITN TV News
- BBC TV News 24
- BBC Radio Nottingham
- Capital Radio
- Gem Radio
- Nottingham Post
- Mansfield Chronicle and Advertiser
- X's 2 The Sunday Times
- X's 2 The Guardian
- News of the World
- The Sunday Telegraph
- Morley Advertiser
- The Mail on Sunday
- X's 2 ITV TV Daybreak
- Channel 4 News
- The Daily Telegraph

Meetings - Individuals

- X's 3 Nick Herbert (Police Minister)
- X's 2 Tom Winsor (Pay Review)
- Jon Gaunt (Broadcaster)
- John Randall (Chairman PNB)
- X's 2 Yvette Cooper (Shadow Home Secretary)
- Reverend John Osborne (Police Chaplain)
- X's 2 Sir Hugh Orde (President ACPO)
- X's 3 Derek Barnett (President Superintendents' Association)
- Ch Con Mark Rowley, Surrey
- Ed Balls (Shadow Chancellor)
- Ben Priestly (Unison)
- Acting Metropolitan Police Commissioner Tim Godwin
- Caroline Murdoch (Met Police)
- Nick Gargan (CEO NPIA)
- X's 2 Vernon Coaker (Shadow Police Minister)
- X's 2 Sir Denis O'Connor (HMIC)
- Blair Gibbs (Policy Exchange)
- Graham Cassidy (Gen Sec Superintendents Association)
- Les Gray (Chairman Scottish Federation)
- Terry Spence (Chairman PSNI Federation)
- Viscount Simon (LibDem Lord)
- Sara Ayemoung (Home Office)
- Stephen Mann (CEO Police Mutual)
- Joe Holness (National Police Memorial Day)

Meetings

X's 2 Police Parliamentary Group (Mixed Group of Lords and MP's)

JBB Chairs and Secs'

Skills for Justice Board – Sheffield

Police Public Bravery Awards

MPFS Board

National Police Memorial Day Committee (Chair)

JCC Meeting (Chair)

Met SBB Executive

JBB Chairmans Meeting – Birmingham

X's 2 JCC Executive
X's 2 JCC Conference Planning
Police Review staff
Policy Exchange

Other Events

- Northumbria Open Meeting, Newcastle
Speaker
- Leaving Event – Grant Thorburn – Cleveland

National Police Memorial

The National Police Memorial Day will take place on Sunday 25th September 2011 in Glasgow. Preparations for the event are well underway and we would like to thank Joe Holness for all the work he is doing in relation to the planning and also to Les Gray, Chairman of the Scottish Federation for assisting with arrangements in Glasgow.

Next years NPMD will be held in York, North Yorkshire.

Paul McKeever

Simon Reed

The Chairman is on leave from 15th – 31st August 2011