

## Federation lobbies MPs to stress consequences of cuts on forces

MEMBERS of Parliament, including Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, have been told about the impact of cuts to West Yorkshire Police.

Mrs Cooper (Labour MP for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford) and Craig Whittaker (Conservative MP for the Calder Valley), were among parliamentarians who joined West Yorkshire Federation for the launch of its #CutsHaveConsequences campaign.

You can see the site at [www.wypf.polfed.org/cuts-have-consequences/](http://www.wypf.polfed.org/cuts-have-consequences/) and watch the video at [vimeo.com/117842169](http://vimeo.com/117842169).

The MPs heard about the consequences of the force losing almost 1,000 police officers. The Federation also spoke to other MPs, including Jack Dromey, Shadow Police Minister, and Baroness Harris of Richmond.

Representatives from West Yorkshire Police Federation who travelled to London for the launch were Deputy Secretary Nick Mosey, Secretary Gary Maloney, Chairman Nick Smart and Treasurer Craig Grandison.



(From left) Nick Mosey, Gary Maloney, Nick Smart and Craig Grandison.

The West Yorkshire Police Federation #CutsHaveConsequences campaign is running for two months and will feature bus and train station advertising, as well as regular updates on social media.

Chairman Mr Smart said: "We have chosen to run this information and awareness campaign because we believe the public have a right to know what the £1.63 billion cuts to the policing budget mean.

"The police service is being eroded, neighbourhood policing is being eroded and our mem-

bers are worried about the level of service they can provide to the public as a result of ongoing cuts.

"Something has to give. You do not get more or even the same with less. You only get less."

Mr Smart said the fact that more than 200 MPs have voted against more cuts to police budgets – totalling £299 million – shows they are beginning to listen.

He added: "It seems MPs are starting to realise the impact of cuts to their local policing services – the #CutsHaveConsequences campaign is being heard."

## Service loses 17,000 police

THE police service has shrunk by 17,278 officers in England and Wales in the past five years.

The service has lost the equivalent of a force the size of Police Scotland.

There were 144,353 police officers in England and Wales in September 2009. But in the last count in September 2014, that number had fallen to 127,075 officers in the 43 police forces – down 1,295 since the year before. It is the lowest number of police officers in England and Wales since 2001.

In West Yorkshire there are now 4,801 officers – down 136 in one year.

Of the 43 forces, 30 recorded a drop in officer numbers compared to a year earlier, and 34 recorded a drop compared to six months earlier. Officer numbers have fallen for each of the past five years, according to figures released by the Home Office.

The number of police staff has also fallen. There were 63,678 members of police staff in the 43 police forces on 30 September 2014, a fall of 1,023 (or 1.6 per cent) compared to a year earlier. Compared to six months earlier, there was a fall of 419 (or 0.7 per cent).

Steve White, Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales, said: "There can be no doubt that the drastic cuts in force budgets is doing real harm to the service's ability to protect the public."



## Your pension

PENSIONS update: "Northumbria, Durham, Cleveland, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Humberside and South Yorkshire Police Federation have decided that when the new police pension regulations are published we will thoroughly examine them with expert help, and seek legal advice."

## Fire hero PC

A POLICE officer has been hailed a hero after rushing into a burning home to rescue a mother and her two young children. Response officer PC Umer Saeed smashed a window to get into the property in Ireland Wood, Leeds, following an early hours 999 call. The family were trapped in an upstairs room but he managed to lead them to safety before firefighters got there.

## Grant passed

THE Police Grant Report, which proposes a 5.1 per cent reduction in government funding to police forces for 2015/16, was approved in Parliament in February despite protests that the funding formula is unfair. MPs approved the Police Grant Report by 285 votes to 212. All forces in England and Wales will have their budgets further cut by a total of £299 million.

## Air closures

ONE third of police helicopter bases in England and Wales will be closed because of Government funding cuts. The National Police Air Service (NPAS) is reducing the number of its bases from 20 to 15. NPAS is a national service, co-ordinated by a lead force in West Yorkshire for local delivery.

## No complaint

POLICE forces under severe financial pressure should no longer investigate the rising number of complaints about their officers, the Police Federation of England and Wales has said. Alex Duncan, professional standards lead, said that a new independent body should be set up to deal with all complaints about police. His comments come as statistics from the Independent Police Complaints Commission showed a 15 per cent rise in complaints.

# 'Time is right for all operational officers to have option of Taser'

THE Police Federation of England and Wales voted unanimously that all operational police officers should have the opportunity to carry Taser.

They also agreed to support the action of the National Armed Policing and Less Lethal Weapons Working Group/Secretariat in asking forces to conduct a Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment of current Taser capability and capacity provision. This would be used to provide evidence in support of a wider roll-out of Taser to more operational police officers.

Nick Smart, Chairman of West Yorkshire Police Federation, said he supported the national vote. He added: "Locally, we are negotiating with the Command Team to maximise the use of existing Taser-trained officers, as well as training more officers in its use and looking at officer deployments.

"This is an ongoing piece of work. The Command Team are very aware of the need to keep our officers safe during these unprecedented times – as are we."

Steve White, Chairman of the



**The Federation believes all officers should be able to carry a Taser.**

Police Federation of England and Wales, said: "We have long called for a wider roll-out of Taser. Now the time is right for all operational police officers to have the option to carry Taser, which I believe will provide greater public reassurance."

A poll on the Federation's website shows that of more than 7,500 votes, 89 per cent believe all frontline officers should be issued with Taser.

According to the BBC, there are currently 14,000 police officers in England and Wales authorised or trained to use Tasers. That

would mean another 100,000 would need to be equipped and appropriately trained.

ACPO estimates that each Taser costs £1,000. At least 18 hours of training is needed, plus six hours refresher per year to carry a Taser.

Commander Neil Basu, National Policing Lead on Taser, said: "While I would support an extended roll-out, this must be informed by appropriate assessments of existing threat and risk. The high standards of training must not be diluted and they should only be carried by those who volunteer to do so."

## Labour rules out police redundancy

THE Labour Party has "unequivocally" promised not to use compulsory severance for police officers if it wins the general election in May.

Jack Dromey, Labour's Shadow Police Minister, has made it clear that redundancy will not be an option for police officers, despite budgetary constraints looking set to become tighter over the next Parliament.

"We will not use compulsory severance. Full stop. Clear and unequivocal. Unlike the Home Secretary who leaves her options open," said Mr Dromey.

Home Secretary Theresa May last year accepted the Police Arbitration Tribunal's recommendation not to implement



**No severance, says Jack Dromey.**

measures to introduce compulsory severance for police officers in England and Wales. However, she said the Government and police should continue to consider the reform as an option.

The Police Arbitration Tribunal, chaired by Prof John Goodman CBE, ruled that introducing officer redundancy to the service would be a "momentous change" and that the case for bringing it into the service was not "compelling".

For officers to work in the knowledge that they could face redundancy despite the sacrifices they make for the force would be "detrimental to the mutuality of commitment between officers and forces," the Tribunal ruled.

Nick Smart, Chairman of West Yorkshire Police Federation, said: "We are pleased that Labour is taking this off the table. Unfortunately the current Home Secretary has failed to rule this out."

# Force shows 350 assaults on officers

A TOTAL of 356 officers were assaulted at West Yorkshire Police in the first six months of the last financial year, it can be revealed.

Nationally, officers suffered 6,293 assaults in the six-month period between April and the end of September. The figures exclude the Met and Police Scotland, which did not provide results.

Different forces use different systems to capture and record the data, so it is difficult to give a precise comparison.

In other high-ranking forces, a total of 1,349 officers were assaulted at PSNI, while 476 officers were assaulted at Greater Manchester Police.

The figures were revealed after every force in the country received a request under the



**The way officer assaults are recorded has been widely criticised.**

Freedom of Information Act.

At just two recorded assaults, South Yorkshire reported the fewest nationwide. However, the local Federation disputes these figures. Bedfordshire (six), City of London (eight) and Warwickshire (18) came close behind.

The patchy numbers high-

light an ongoing problem with collating the figures, which the Police Federation has spoken out against.

The Home Office and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary have not officially recorded these figures since 2004/5.

Nick Smart, Chairman of West

Yorkshire Police Federation, said: "This just shows what a fallacy of crime recording it is.

"We cannot just pick and choose what we want to record. Officers who are assaulted should be part of the crime figures."

Steve White, Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales, said it is "shocking" that the data is inaccurate.

He added that he was in talks with Home Secretary Theresa May and calling for more consistency in the statistics.

A Home Office spokesman said: "We are currently working with the Police Federation and individual police forces to ensure the accuracy and consistency of police assault figures submitted to the Home Office."

## Traffic officer numbers fall by a quarter

THE number of traffic officers in England and Wales has fallen by almost a quarter in four years, according to Government figures.

The total number of traffic officers across the country fell from 5,635 at the end of March 2010 to 4,356 by the end of March 2014, according to the Home Office.

In West Yorkshire, the number of traffic officers fell from 315 to 225.

Only two forces in the country, Suffolk and Warwickshire, have increased their traffic units. At the other end of the scale, Devon and Cornwall's drop of 76 per cent was the largest.

Pete Williams, head of external affairs at the RAC, said the figures made a "mockery of motoring law", with officers no longer available to catch drivers committing offences.

"If there are not enough police on the road, we can introduce all the new rules we want, but those breaking them just will not get caught," he said. "While cameras are good at catching speeders and drivers who go through red lights, offences that relate to



**Fall in officer numbers makes a "mockery" of road law, says the RAC.**

general poor behaviour at the wheel still rely on a police officer to enforce them."

The figures come as the number of people killed on UK roads rose by one per cent to 1,711 in the year ending September 2014. The number of children killed or seriously injured increased by three per cent, while the number of overall road casualties of all severities rose by five per cent to 192,910.

However, a Home Office

spokeswoman insisted that police did have enough resources, as crime had fallen by more than a fifth under the Coalition Government.

"What matters is how officers are deployed, not how many of them there are in total," she said. "The reduction in crime nationwide demonstrates there is no simple link between officer numbers and crime levels, the visibility of the police in the community and the quality of service."

## Crime is falling but demand on officers is not

THE first national picture of the breadth and complexity of the work undertaken by the police has revealed that "while crime may have fallen, level of demand on police resources has not reduced in the same way".

The analysis, published by the College of Policing, reveals that there is currently one police officer per 445 people in England and Wales. That is up more than 50 people per officer than in 2010.

Police officer numbers are down 11 per cent in that period.

The College stated: "There are two indications of emerging pressure on police resilience – decreased levels of visibility and increasing requests for mutual aid."

The work shows the incoming and ongoing work of the police and suggests an increasing amount of police time is directed towards public protection work, such as managing high-risk offenders and protecting victims."



**West Yorkshire Police Federation**



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