



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Chairman's address to the Police Federation of England and Wales' Annual Conference 2009.

As my first annual conference as Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Bournemouth and to the Police Federation of England and Wales' Annual Conference 2009. Conference gives us all the opportunity to take time out of day-to-day activities and focus on the current challenges that affect policing. I want you to maximise the opportunities that conference brings, to discuss, debate and contribute to the direction of what needs to be done to pave the way forward for policing.

We often lose sight of what is important in policing; we need to get back to basics. **Policing should be led by what communities demand not by political and management motives.** It should not be forgotten that public service is at the heart of policing, which is why this year's annual conference is entitled '**Policing for the People**'.

Since last Conference, we have reached a milestone in the negotiation and subsequent resolution of police pay and pension commutation factors. Now, our full effort and concentration is on the major issues that are affecting frontline, operational officers today. Policing is becoming increasingly challenging, times are changing and this is reflected in the emergence of 'Workforce Modernisation'. **Workforce Modernisation** has moved on from the conceptual stage and is being demonstrated in nine forces throughout England and Wales, bringing with it some big concerns but also points that should be commended.

Our biggest concern being that if implemented in full there is no turning back and the resilience and capacity of the service to deal with major incidents and events may have been eroded.

We have all been affected, directly or indirectly, by the erosion of core services within policing over recent years.

The Government's continual onslaught to de-skill the police service is relentless and must stop. We will continue our campaign to reinstate the need for, and value of, specialist CID, Traffic and Dog Handling Units. The Government must realise the damage caused by cutting the number of specialist roles within the service which has resulted in major recruitment and retention problems. As a result, the remaining specialists within the service are under increasing pressure, and the consequence is a serious resilience issue.

Last August, I was appalled and disgusted with the decision that PC Ian Broadhurst's killer will now not serve a whole life sentence. **This is a shockingly disrespectful slur and illustrates the disgraceful state our criminal justice system is in, where the rights of a cop killer outweigh the rights of a fallen officer's family, friends and colleagues.**

Decisions to reduce life sentences are an insult to all police officers and are nothing more than a green light for evil thugs who have a complete disregard for life.

For the police and the public to have confidence in the system, Life must mean life.

On your behalf, I would like to thank our guest speakers, conference exhibitors and the sponsors of this year's conference for their continued support.

This week will no doubt initiate lively debates which will assist in forming the basis of the way forward in policing.

I look forward to a very productive Conference 2009.

Paul McKeever

The PPP comments we totally endorse Paul McKeever's comments we have highlighted and really appreciate the customer focus of this conference.