

Police Review Letters
IHS Jane's 133 Houndsditch
London
EC3A 7BX

11th April 2011

RE: Do The Right Thing.

Dear Editor,

I am sick to death of politicians who claim *to value the finest police service in the world* (Nick Herbert PR – 8/4) but then enthusiastically support measures to savagely cut our pay and decimate our numbers. Well actions speak louder than words and the message from this Government is crystal clear – they don't value us at all.

Mr Herbert's attempts firstly to defend Tom Winsor's recommendations then convince the reader of their worth are frankly infantile and patronizing in equal measure. Police officers live in a world of evidence, evidence that has to convince beyond reasonable doubt. Mr Herbert's arguments fall far short of the balance of probability!!

Every police officer understands the need for a pay freeze, but to freeze incremental pay progression for two years is a double whammy nobody else is being subjected to; for a 7 year constable this amounts to a loss of £4,143. The loss of CRTP, a pensionable allowance, not only impacts upon officers in service but also into their retirement (£16,000 on pension alone). This isn't about police officers taking *their fair share of the burden*. This is a wholesale attack on our conditions of service; our families' living standards.

Mr Herbert, as if to comfort us, states that MPs too are shouldering their *fair share of the burden*. They have taken a pay freeze and their *allowances have been reformed*. Nice try – the reform of MPs' allowances was nothing to do with the budget deficit, but rather too many being caught with their metaphorical or, in some cases, actual fingers in the till.

This Government tells us the last one got us into the current financial crisis. The last Government blames the bankers. I can't help wondering that if politicians and bankers are to blame, then why are police officers, and in fairness every other public sector worker, picking up the bill?

Ian Pointon
Chairman