

Pay talks could prompt walk out

Police negotiators are on the brink of a potential walk out from pay negotiations because of a failure to compromise by the official side which includes Home Office representatives.

Jan Berry, chairman of the Police Federation, warned of interference by the Home Office in trying to agree a fair pay settlement for police officers following Police Negotiating Board (PNB) meetings last month.

"I am really concerned about Home Office interference in the negotiations which is getting to the point that it's becoming a real obstacle. It does seem like they are becoming control freaks over the process, the whole purpose of them being represented on the official side is to have a watching brief not to control it.

"We could be given no alternative but to walk out on negotiations because there seems to be no room for negotiation with the official side."

Negotiators from the staff side, which includes Police Federation representation, and official side have failed to reach a compromise after police officers were offered a 2.325 percent pay rise for putting their lives on the line.

Mrs Berry added: "We are calling on Prime Minister Gordon Brown to honour his words and support police officers."

This year the PNB were directed, by the Home Secretary, to only look at recommendations put forward by government-appointed Sir Clive Booth which fail to take into account the dangers faced by police officers, restrictions on their public and private lives and the fact that they have no right to strike.

- Pay negotiations are due to go to conciliation on August 15

Politicians push for fair pay

MPs are set to speak in the House of Commons to raise awareness for fair pay for police officers in the face of the increasing pressures and dangers they are facing.

An early day motion, has been tabled to highlight the Police Federation's campaign to achieve a fair agreement during pay negotiations.

Early Day Motion reads:

That this House recognises the bravery and hard work of the police and commends police officers for adapting to meet the diverse challenges asked of them, from the fight against crime and the implementation of community policing to the fight against terrorism and dealing with natural emergencies such as the floods affecting large parts of the United Kingdom; and calls upon the Home Office to recognise the unique role of the Office of Constable and ensure that UK police officers are given a fair pay settlement from 1st September 2007 which reflects the daily dangers they face, the fact that they are accountable for their actions both on duty and off duty and are prohibited from taking industrial action.

- For more information on the pay campaign log on to: www.polfed.org

Jan Berry: Gordon Brown should 'honour his words'

The pay dispute will be raised in the Commons

