

HOME OFFICE

Police Pay

Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): On 6 December 2007, I published Sir Clive Booth's report "Determining Pay in the Police Service". Sir Clive Booth recommended that a pay review body for police officers should be created. I indicated that the Government accepted his recommendations and we would consult on proposals for implementing the necessary changes to the police officer pay machinery.

On 8 January 2008, I wrote to the Police Negotiating Board (PNB) asking them to consider a multi year deal for police officers based on the index used by the Police Arbitration Tribunal (PAT) in 2007. I made clear that if the PNB agreed such a deal then it could be implemented in full, and the issue of implementing a pay review body for police officers would become less pressing. We therefore deferred consultation on the implementation of a pay review body whilst negotiations on a multi year deal were taking place. The Government's approach on this was also set out in "From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing Our Communities Together" (Cm 7448) published on 17 July 2008.

The Official Side of the PNB made an offer of a 3 year pay deal which was one of the most generous in the public sector. Regrettably, there was a failure to agree with the Staff Side on this basis. In the event that the PNB had agreed a multi year deal there would have been no role for a pay review body for some time, but disappointingly for the third consecutive year a deal was not agreed.

The Government is therefore today beginning consultation on proposals for implementing a pay review body for police officers. Sir Clive Booth already consulted widely with policing stakeholders when undertaking his review. So this second consultation will be an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the detail of the proposed changes to the police officer pay machinery, including : the scope and purpose of the new body; its remit; membership and coverage.

The consultation will close on Wednesday 5 November 2008.

I have today placed a copy of the consultation document in the library of the House.