



Jane's
POLICE
REVIEW

www.policereview.com

Re: Police Pensions

www.causes.com/causes/560366-protect-police-pensions-in-britain

www.ipetitions.com/petition/protect_police_pensions/

www.NigelTompsett.com

MP

House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear [Mr/Mrs/Miss].....

I am a serving police officer living within your constituency. As you will be aware, Chancellor George Osborne has invited Lord Hutton of Furness to chair an Independent Review on Public Sector pensions, covering a wide range of hugely differing pension schemes, including the police pension scheme.

There is understandably great concern among police officers surrounding the outcome of the final report, due before the 2011 Budget.

Speculation has been rife as to what Lord Hutton will propose. However, he has made clear his intentions in a press release on 7 October 2010 in which he stated that 'if the government wishes to make short-term savings, then raising contribution rates would be the most effective way.'

The police pension scheme has its origins in 1829 when Sir Robert Peel created the Metropolitan Police. It has been amended several times in its detail since then but underwent its most radical change just five years ago when the scheme was closed to all new entrants and replaced by the new police pension scheme. This change was initiated under the Conservative government in 1993 and finally implemented by Labour in 2006.

The police pension scheme is designed to recognise the 'arduous and hazardous conditions' of police work, the uniqueness of which cannot be properly compared with any other vocation or work. This is borne out by the fact that police officers are servants of the Crown, not contracted employees, with conditions regulated by statute and they simply cannot be replaced by any other body. It has long been accepted by successive governments that police pay and conditions have to reflect the unique position of police officers.

Police officers in the old scheme contribute **11%** of their pensionable pay to the scheme. Officers in the new scheme contribute **9.5%**. It has to be accepted that both these figures are extremely high levels of contributions.

No other public servant contributes as much as police officers.

Firefighters currently contribute **8.5%**; teachers **6.4%**; NHS employees **5% to 8.5%**; local government employees **3.5% to 6.5%**; civil servants **3.5%**; judges **1.8% to 2.4%**, while the Armed Forces contribute **0%**. I accept fully the position of members of the Armed Forces and agree with Lord Hutton's conclusion that this level ought not to change.

While I quite understand the financial situation the coalition government has inherited and the need for drastic and urgent action to be taken to reduce the huge budget deficit, I feel that there has been an unfortunate media drive to attack public sector pensions, with frequent references to the unfairness of 'gold-plated final salary pensions', with public servants frequently castigated for receiving huge rewards compared to their impoverished private sector colleagues who alone bear the full brunt of the effects of the deficit. This position is quite without grounds and takes no account of the hard work carried out by so many public sector workers.

My real concern is that a result of this undue pressure on the government will be an unjustifiable and unfair attack on the police pension scheme, which will serve only the clamouring of the media for changes. In times when 'fairness' is being preached by the government, I would advocate that in fairness to police officers, police pensions should be made exempt from an increase in employee contributions, in light of our already high level of contributions.

In view of the likelihood that the proposals submitted by the Hutton report will undoubtedly include an increase in police pension contributions, may I strongly urge you to make representations to both the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on behalf of all your police officer constituents for them not to accept this particular proposal and safeguard the unique position of police officers.

Yours sincerely,

Full name Date

Address

..... Postcode

Telephone Email

