

# POLICE NEGOTIATING BOARD

## STAFF SIDE

15-17 Langley Road . Surbiton . Surrey KT6 6LP

Tel 020 8335 1000 . Fax 020 8390 8998

Your ref:

Our ref: JF/JP

8 February 2008

Rt Hon Jacqui Smith MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Dear Home Secretary

### **Written Ministerial Statement 6 December 2007**

I write in respect of your WMS of 6 December, in particular in relation to Sir Clive Booth's report and recommendations following Part Two of his review on behalf of the Home Office.

Having previously been advised that there would be full consultation on Sir Clive's Part Two report, I first have to register the Staff Side's surprise and disappointment that your WMS reports that the Government has accepted his recommendation to create a pay review body for police officers, without first conducting the promised consultation.

That said, I now write to seek clarification on your further intentions. The WMS says: "The Government will consult, in the near future, on proposals for implementing the necessary changes to the police pay machinery."

It is not clear to us from this statement:

- (1) precisely what it is the Government intends to consult on, nor, given that we have heard nothing since, what the timetable for such consultation is;
- (2) what type of pay review body it is intended to create; what will be its remit, and whether or not there will continue to be the need for a negotiating body of sorts to deal with conditions of service other than pay;
- (3) what is the Government's timetable for the introduction of a pay review body.

Consequently, I write on behalf of the Staff Side to seek clarity on these issues.

In respect of point (3), we received an indication from the PNB Independent Chair on 6 February that there was a possibility that the Government's intention to create a pay review body might be included in the Queen's Speech in November this year. He further advised that it was the OME's view that, between the date of the second reading of a draft Bill and appointment and first report of a pay review body, would take approximately two years.

The Staff Side and its support teams are currently organised and structured to support and service a negotiating body (the PNB), a structure which is unlikely to suit the needs of a pay review body. I am sure you will appreciate that the necessary re-organisation will take considerable time to put in place, if we are to be ready to respond to the review body's invitations to put forward submissions in time for its first report.

This will be even more important if there is to be both a pay review body and a negotiating body of sorts. It is therefore essential that we have as much notice as possible of the Government's intended timetable, and why we seek clarity at this time.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



**JOHN FRANCIS**  
Staff Side Secretary