



policebeat

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**20 years on,
Happy
Christmas
to all**



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CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

It has been another tough year for officers on several fronts. Delays on implementing pay have left a bitter taste with many, particularly as household bills are rising at a frightening rate and as we transition out of Covid, the mood music from Government does not bode well for police pay increases going forward.

On a somewhat happier note, we marked the PSNI's 20th anniversary. There was no fanfare. No celebratory event. It passed with a series of media interviews which focused on Patten and on-going challenges on the recruitment front.

We didn't get everything right in our first twenty, but we all have a lot to be proud of for the way we policed this divided community and countered threats and criminality posed by paramilitary thugs and organised crime gangs.

At the same time, our men and women continued to police, as society generally worked to come to terms with the COVID-19 pandemic. We have lost colleagues to the virus and literally thousands have either been laid low or forced to self-isolate.

Even with depleted numbers, you stepped up to the plate to continue to offer dedicated and professional services to the public we are proud to serve.

Of course, it isn't all entirely about you. Behind you are partners and children who display amazing tolerance and resilience as you turn up for your shift, are called in at short notice or have leave cancelled. Your loved ones deserve great credit and thanks for their vital and supportive roles. You couldn't do what you do without the safety net of your families and for that, I know you would want me to extend heartfelt thanks.

To each and every one of you working over the festive period, stay safe and well. To colleagues who are fortunate to spend Christmas at home, enjoy the well-earned break. I wish all of you a Happy Christmas and a joyous and peaceful New Year.

**Mark Lindsay MBE, Chair,
Police Federation for Northern Ireland**



CHIEF CONSTABLE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we end another year, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, who work night and day to keep people safe. Your pride, compassion and unwavering commitment define policing and public service.

Just last month, we celebrated twenty years of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. This provided an important opportunity to look back over the past two decades, recognising the contribution of colleagues in the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC. The positive impact that policing has made to Northern Ireland and its people, as well as our reputation on a global stage, reflects how far we have come as an organisation.

By its very nature, policing continues to evolve to meet the needs and expectations of the people and communities we serve. There is clear consensus and support for visible, accessible and responsive policing, prompting us to adapt the way that we attend incidents, investigate crime and bring offenders to justice.

Looking ahead to 2022 will see our organisation transform our connectivity with the public and indeed each other through our digital policing programme and modernisation of our organisation.

Tangible changes such as new fleet, new uniform, new protective equipment, new technology and modernising our

police estate will mark how we begin the third decade of our history.

Policing with the support and cooperation of local communities has been, and will continue to be, the cornerstone of progress in Northern Ireland and we reach forward in 2022 with a sense of pride and optimism.

This is a time of year when we get together with loved ones and enjoy each other's company. Hopefully that will be easier to do this year now that restrictions have eased somewhat. However, Northern Ireland continues to have one of the highest rates of community infection of Covid 19 so it is perhaps a timely reminder that I ask you to continue to take every available precaution to stay as safe as we can both at home and in the workplace.

Thank you all once again for your dedication and continued support.

I wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. For those at work over the festive period thank you for all that you do to protect our community, take care and stay safe.

**Chief Constable Simon Byrne,
Police Service of Northern Ireland**

