



Media Statement on behalf of the South Wales Police Federation

Date: 3rd April 2015

Cuts Have Consequences

South Wales Police has over 500 police officers less than in 2007

For a period of 3 weeks from 6th April 2015, the South Wales Police Federation will be displaying banners on the rears of 120 local buses in the South Wales Police area. These banners are intended to highlight the fact that, due to budget cuts which will total £70m by 2019 in South Wales alone and which have resulted in the loss of 502 officers since 2007, the face of British policing is now irrevocably changing. The police will need to prioritise their actions and, in an age when digital crime, on-line fraud and counter-terrorism is consuming so much more police time than ever before, the public should be aware that cuts have consequences.

On top of the difficulties caused by cuts to the police budget, our partner agencies such as the Health Service, Ambulance Service and Social Services have also experienced huge cuts to their funding and this has resulted in their obligations often being passed to the police as the service of first and last resort with 72% of police officer time now spent in dealing with non-criminal matters.

Steve Trigg, Chair of the South Wales Police Federation, stated: "You cannot lose 15% of your workforce and expect no impact on your public service delivery. The police officers of South Wales want to perform to an exemplary

standard but are often so busy in responding to calls that they are unable to provide the service they would like or the public deserve. This campaign is intended to highlight some of the difficulties faced by a senior management team who are expected to do more with considerably less and we are calling on politicians of all sides to pause and take proper cognisance of the true effects of the cuts on the communities we serve. Ultimately, prioritising our response to incidents may result in us no longer responding in the way the public have come to expect and that is a discussion that our communities should be privy to.”

NOTES TO EDITOR

- The Police Federation of England and Wales, represents more than 120,000 Police Officers up to and including the rank of Chief Inspector. Established by statute, we are responsible not only for the welfare of our members but also ensure that their views on all aspects of policing, including relevant legislation, are relayed to government, opinion formers and key stakeholders.
- The bus poster campaign will run from 6th April 2015 to 26th April 2015 and will cover 120 buses in the Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, Neath, Swansea and Valley areas. [You can view a pdf of the banner here](#)
- The poster campaign will be supported by an A5 information leaflet which will be sent to every prospective parliamentary candidate in our area. [You can view that leaflet as a pdf here](#)
- Attached is a briefing letter that we have prepared for the politicians but you can also view that on-line at <http://swpf.org/cutshaveconsequences>

- For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact;

Steve Trigg
Chair,
South Wales Police Federation

07968 268434

strigg@swpf.polfed.org