

Dear Mr Javid, MP

Thank you for your reply dated Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011 in response to my letter dated Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011 in relation to police pensions. In the interests of speed, now that I have your email address, I thought I would take the opportunity to email you.

I note that the majority of your letter was a word for word copy that other Conservative Members of Parliament have sent to their constituents on the same subject. I do not feel that I can complain too much about receiving a reply that you had not personally written when you were only replying to letter that I hadn't personally written, hence this personally written email. I also note your comments "I have written to the Home Secretary and the Chancellor as you request and as soon as I receive a response I will be back in touch" and look forward to this reply.

In the meantime I wish to inform you of my own circumstances. I have been a sworn Police Officer for nearly 15 years and in that time I have been assaulted on a number of occasions. I have been spat on and spat at, I have been verbally insulted and threatened with words that I would never wish to repeat. I have had threats made to myself and my family which include finding out where I live and doing unthinkable acts to those I love the most. I have been (falsely) accused of criminal and misconduct offences purely for investigating criminal acts that were perpetrated by members of the criminal fraternity. I have been accused in open court of being a liar by a convicted criminal via his legal representative, again for purely attempting (and successfully) convicting him of an offence that I had personally seen him commit. I have dealt with all kinds of incidents, seen almost everything that humans are capable of and dealt with death in every kind of imaginable way. I have been involved in horrendous child abuse and domestic abuse investigations and have seen first-hand what this has done to their victims, mentally and physically. While off duty I have assisted colleagues from my own and other forces in dealing with incidents that I have come across and never submitted an overtime claim. I have often worked overtime at the end of the shift and never claimed any money or time of in lieu. I have previously worked shifts, working on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and other major public holidays, missing out on many family occasions which other people take for granted. I have also worked Earlies, Lates and Nights and again often missed family parties, friend's weddings and other such social occasions. I have had rest days cancelled at short notice to attend court and for Policing Operations, having to cancel plans. The list goes on.

All of this and I still go home to family and act like nothing has ever happened just to give my children the normality and good upbringing that they deserve.

You see, Mr Javid, the Office of Constable is a unique office, one that should be protected along with the fully deserving pension. I have contributed 11% of my salary per year, every year since 1996 and hope to do so until 2026 so that I may have a comfortable well deserved retirement. Do you think that raising the pension contribution or changing the terms and conditions are fair to someone like myself who has dedicated my whole adult life to public service?

I am not the bravest Officer in the country, there are thousands of other officers across our Nation who are braver than I am, those who have been seriously injured or even worse, murdered in the execution of their duty. Is it so right that such brave Officers are facing the prospect of an increase in pension contributions and a change in terms and conditions? A lot

of these officers will also be facing the loss of Special Priority Payments, Competency Related Threshold Payments, overtime, child benefit and child tax credit. Factoring this in with an increase in pension contributions, a rise in VAT and general inflation, this could see some officer's lose a third of their disposable incomes. This could mean the humiliation of house and car repossessions for some of us Officers.

I urge you to support the many hundreds, possibly thousands of Police Officers from West Midlands Police, West Mercia Constabulary and Warwickshire Constabulary who live in your constituency. These are the very people who have most likely voted for you at last year's election to ensure your seat in parliament. All of these Officers know full well what the financial position of this country is. They also know that they have reasonably good pensions but let's not forget, some have been paying 9.5% and most of us have been paying 11% of our wages for this privilege. In my original letter I point out that no other public servant pays this much into their pensions. I know there will be resistance from any public servant who is likely to have their pension contributions increased but surely having read my letter, you can see what we face on a regular basis. You can also see how much we already contribute to our pensions and why we should be exempt from any increase in our pension contributions or a change in the terms and conditions?

This is why we Police Officers are asking you and your colleagues to make representations to the Home Secretary and the Chancellor not to make any short term savings by increasing pension contributions or changing our terms and conditions. This is a perfect way to show us, in your own words, just how much you value our enormous and brave contribution we make to keep this country safe.

Yours sincerely,

JW