



North Yorkshire  
Police Federation



#CutsHave  
Consequences

# Cuts have consequences

## An open letter to the people of North Yorkshire and the City of York from North Yorkshire Police Federation

Since 2010, 17,000 police officer posts have been lost in England & Wales. To put that into perspective, it is the equivalent of removing **every police officer** from Northumbria, from Durham, from Cleveland, from Humberside, from North Yorkshire, from West Yorkshire and from South Yorkshire.

In North Yorkshire, as elsewhere in the country, the impact of cuts to police funding is changing the way our members police your communities. The service we have provided in the past is under very real threat.

We are the service that everyone turns to in an emergency or when others do not respond or are closed for the evening or weekend. When all else fails, you, the public, contact your police – we are the service of last resort and first response.

Reported crime is falling, it is claimed. So it is argued that the police service can withstand greater cuts. But evidence from the College of Policing shows that dealing with crime accounts for a very small amount of what we are asked – and expected – to do.

Vulnerable children and adults still need protecting, sex offenders still need to be monitored, missing people still have families desperate for them to be found. Much of our time is still spent looking after people who need help from elsewhere – such as dealing with those with mental welfare issues. And when other doors are shut, people turn to the police to help.

Each year, our county sees a huge influx of tourists, and our communities are a magnet for criminals from the counties that we border with, and beyond. And, of course, we are the home of many military establishments and communities, all potential targets for terrorism and extremism.

In North Yorkshire, we face the challenge of policing a massive rural road network spread across 3000 square miles. The number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads is devastating. Every death is a tragedy and deserves to be investigated just as thoroughly as any murder. The families and loved ones of those who have died deserve no less.

The nature of the crimes that we are dealing with is evolving all the time, and the service that we give to victims has changed immeasurably. As investigations become more complex, and we strive to improve how victims are treated, each crime requires greater resources.

Since 2007 the number of North Yorkshire police officers there are to look after you has fallen steadily from 1650 to just 1400 today. This reduction has taken place as more and more people choose to live here. In 2007, there were 2.1 police officers for every 1000 residents – today there are just 1.5 police officers for every 1000 residents. **#Cuts have consequences**

And now, we are seeing significant changes – Selby custody area has been closed and Skipton will soon follow. Police officers in those districts will have to transport their prisoners to York and Harrogate, taking them away from the communities they should be policing. **#Cuts have consequences**

Police officers are being posted into newly-formed 'investigative hubs', based at York, Harrogate, Northallerton and Scarborough. Some of the work they will do was once done by police staff – police staff who have lost their jobs, as the budget cuts have bitten. So instead of being out in your communities, police officers will be back in the station, completing administrative tasks because North Yorkshire Police can no longer afford to employ sufficient police staff to support officers to be out on patrol. **#Cuts have consequences**

Offering reassurance to the public is what we would love to do. But you need to be informed.

You, the public of North Yorkshire, deserve to know what is happening to your police service. The type of policing you expect – and deserve – in the future is not what we will be able to give.

So we are calling for an honest and rational debate about the consequences of cuts for our communities in North Yorkshire, and about what type of policing you can expect in the future. This debate should be about policing in the wider context - encompassing the consequences of cuts to other public services

In Selby, the funding has been withdrawn for the street wardens who help to police the weekend drinkers and revellers. In Skipton and in Richmond, the district councils can no longer afford CCTV to identify criminal offences and antisocial behaviour and record the evidence. **#Cuts have consequences**

So what is the reality now? On Monday 2 February 2015 police forces across the country united to provide a picture of how many uniformed police officers were on duty for a late shift.

In North Yorkshire, including specialist teams, there were just 6 Inspectors, 23 Sergeants and 99 Constables covering over 3000 square miles which includes York, Harrogate, Scarborough, Northallerton, Skipton, Malton, Selby, Whitby, Richmond, Thirsk, Ripon, Stokesley, Tadcaster, Knaresborough, Filey, Catterick, Easingwold, Boroughbridge, Crosshills, Pickering, Bedale, Sherburn in Elmet, Leyburn, Settle, Eastfield, Pateley Bridge, Hawes, Eggborough, Ingleton and Grassington. **#Cuts have consequences**

Our Chief Constable now faces an almost impossible task - to find another £20 million worth of savings.

Police officer numbers will undoubtedly fall again. The funding cuts we already know are coming may see another 150 police officers lost by 2020. Stations will close, and more of our communities will be without a police presence. Our rural communities will bear the brunt as we retreat towards a reactive style of policing, totally alien to the neighbourhood ethos we know now. The signs are ominous. **#Cuts have consequences**

Our officers who want to help and serve you are feeling the strain too. For the first time in decades we are beginning to see a pattern of officers leaving mid-service, disheartened by the constant criticism and attacks on their professionalism, demoralised by the erosion of their pay, pensions and conditions of service, and disillusioned by the unrelenting demand to do more with less. It is little wonder that those at the end of their service, with years of valuable experience, leave as soon as they can. **#Cuts have consequences**

### **So what can you do? How can you help us to help you?**

Ask your Police & Crime Commissioner about what is really happening with policing in North Yorkshire. **#Cuts have consequences**

Ask your local councillor which services that support policing are being cut and what they are doing to secure law, order and public safety. **#Cuts have consequences**

We are fast approaching a general election and candidates from all parties will be knocking on your door asking for your vote. If you are concerned by what you have read, ask them what their plans are for policing - because **#Cuts have consequences**

We are deeply concerned about what these cuts will bring for the communities in which we live and work - we therefore encourage the recipients of this letter to reproduce it and circulate it to other residents of North Yorkshire. You can download it from our website for electronic distribution. **#Cuts have consequences.**

North Yorkshire Police Federation is committed to working with the Chief Constable and the Police & Crime Commissioner to deliver the best possible policing service to you - the public of North Yorkshire - in the face of the extraordinary challenges that face us. Because **#Cuts have consequences.**

For, and on behalf, of North Yorkshire Police Federation Joint Branch Board

North Yorkshire Police Federation, The Police Station, Castlegate, Knaresborough, HG5 8AR  
01423 866342

[www.nypolfed.org.uk](http://www.nypolfed.org.uk)

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