

Ffederasiwn Heddlu De Cymru

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South Wales Police Federation

Pencoed Police Station,

Heol Y Groes,

Pencoed,

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CF35 5PE

Dear Colleague

South Wales Police Federation Pensions Stance

I write to you as your Chair with regards to the stance of your local South Wales Police Federation in relation to the latest development on the pension's judgement, which ruled that the transitional arrangements were deemed discriminatory and therefore unlawful.

The Government now has to put forward a remedy on how it is going to 'right' the 'wrong'. We have been told that the Government will be releasing a statement in relation to pensions, before the summer recess which starts on 25th July.

Our local stance (South Wales Police Federation) is that the starting point must be the reversion to our previous pension schemes, where this leads to a better outcome for all officers. We expect that this starting point will also be the stance of the Police Federation of England & Wales (PFEW). Should this not be the case, then we will voice this in the most robust way possible, to ensure that our stance is fully adopted at a national level.

I know that you continue to be angry over the great pensions robbery and I can unequivocally state you have the full support of the South Wales Police Federation. I say this as someone who has also been removed from the 1987 pension scheme, along with many of the colleagues who represent you within the South Wales Police Federation.

I know there is much anger as a result of the initial statement of PFEW, following the recent ruling on pensions. The statement sought to address the issue of establishing protections to all until 2022. The lack of reference to taking the fight to the reversion of our old schemes has led to many believing that this would not be the stance of PFEW. I have received an assurance that the position of PFEW has always been that members should have remained on the pension schemes they were originally sold, or better and this remains the objective. If this does not turn out to be the case, then we will be extremely vocal seeking to apply the most robust pressure on PFEW to align their stance to the memberships wishes. We would expect that other local Federations around the country will also take the same stance.

You will be aware that the removal of the previous pension schemes by the Government was without legal challenge. The Federation did not have any negotiating rights in this matter and the legal advice received was that there was no challenge to the introduction of the CARE Pension Scheme. The legal challenge was specifically in relation to the discriminatory aspect of the transitional arrangements.

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This being said, my view was and still remains that there are matters of such importance, you have to stand up, use your last breadth and take the fight, even though the chances of success may be unlikely. I say this as although I reference 'unlikely' this does not equate to 'impossible'. The removal of our pensions was undoubtedly one such matter to stand up and fight for.

Yours

Steve Treharne

Chair

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