

“Last week saw significant outbreaks of disorder on the streets of major cities across the country including Liverpool. In response to this we appreciate that everybody has been worked extremely hard and long hours to ensure that we prevented further disorder and kept communities safe. Twelve hour shifts will continue for the rest of this week although we understand that a decision will be taken to reinstate rest days to enable officers some recuperation before the challenges of the Bank Holiday weekend and Labour Party Conference.

In our communication to members last week we stated that this was not the time to discuss the future strategy of the Government in terms of and pay and conditions and the funding of Forces and that the focus was upon restoring order and protecting our communities.

As we move towards the analysis of why the disorder took place and the police response to it clearly our thoughts and comments will turn towards the above issues.

Your local Branch Board will be making contact with Merseyside M.P.'s outlining to them the views of front line officers on these issues. We will also look to engage through local media outlets to highlight our views on these important issues.

Our voice is stronger if we can refer to comments that have come from members on these matters and enables us to deflect criticism that this is the views of a representative body with a vested interest.

Therefore it would be most helpful if you could share with us any views and experiences of last week. The hours that were worked and the impact this had on you and your family. What are your thoughts on the comments from Government claiming credit for restoring order and the response from Sir Hugh Orde as President of ACPO refuting those claims? Do you have any suggestions as to how we can prevent such outbreaks occurring in the future.

We would also welcome your own views, or the collective views of your colleagues on the impact of the 20% reduction to police budgets and the impact on morale of the Winsor and Hutton Proposals on pay, conditions and pensions. What do you as front line officers believe will be impact on policing, the service we deliver to the public and our ability to meet similar demands in the future?

If your thoughts could be put into e mails we will look to prepare a document for M.P.'s covering the views from the front line. We are also considering with our regional colleagues commissioning a DVD of these comments to send to key decision makers. If you are prepared to appear in this DVD then please let us know and advise us what you would wish to say.

Last week saw massive public support for what you did on their behalf. We believe that the public have very real concerns about the future reductions in police funding and we must be able to tap into this feeling if we are to persuade the Government to change its course.

You can also assist be writing as individuals to your own MP outlining your own feelings on these issues and the events of last week.

You can also sign and encourage family and friends to sign a Government e petition on Policing Cuts. The details and a link to this petition can be found on our website [www.merpolfed.org.uk](http://www.merpolfed.org.uk)

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