

15 June 2020

Dear Police and Crime Commissioner,

Funding Special Constables membership of the Police Federation

The Home Office has confirmed a change in legislation as part of the Police Powers and Protections Bill in the autumn will allow Special Constables to join the Police Federation. This is very welcome as it will allow Specials the same level of representation enjoyed by paid police officers.

Discussions are currently taking place between the Home Office, Police Federation, Association of Special Constabulary Officers, APCC and NPCC as to the mechanics of the representation and to ensure that special constables are able to take up membership as soon as the legislative change comes into effect.

One of the issues under discussion is funding for the membership subscriptions of those special constables that wish to take up Police Federation membership.

Although there is agreement that the special constables themselves, as volunteers, should not have to pay the subscription there is no clear consensus at this stage as to who should pay the bill.

John Apter, National Chair of the Police Federation, addressed the APCC General Meeting in January 2020 and asked us to consider whether PCCs could fund specials' membership of the Federation and this was well received by those members present. And we are aware that many of you will have had conversations on this matter with your local branch chairs.

It is currently reckoned there are some 11,690 special constables across England and Wales and subscription rates set at £21.58 the cost of Police Federation membership for the entire Special Constabulary would be in the region of £3m a year.

Although we are clear that the APCC cannot and would not want to bind you to an agreement to fund special constables' membership of the Police Federation, nevertheless we feel that it is something that we as Commissioners would want to actively consider. As APCC Chair, APCC Workforce Lead and APCC Citizens in Policing Lead, we very much support the approach if agreed and would want to hear your views on this issue to inform ongoing discussions and next steps.

We would be grateful if you could (a) indicate your willingness to pay the Specials subscription fees and / or (b) raise any issues, concerns or points of clarification. Either way, we are keen to hear your views.

Please email andrew.tremayne@apccs.police.uk by close of play, **Wednesday 1 July**.

Yours sincerely,



Katy Bourne,
APCC Chair



Kim McGuinness,
APCC Workforce Lead



Alun Michael,
APCC CiP Lead

APCC
Lower Ground, 5-8 The Sanctuary,
Westminster, London, SW1P 3JS
T 020 7222 4296
E enquiries@apccs.police.uk
T @AssocPCCs

www.apccs.police.uk

The APCC provides support to all
Police and Crime Commissioners
and policing governance bodies in
England and Wales