

Mike Peake

Nobody can be in any doubt that policing is in the most challenging period in its history and it has never been tougher to be a police officer. We have a Government who do not care about policing and who have little interest in the challenges that face those left on the thin blue line. They have trashed many of our Pensions and given us derisory pay settlements that in real terms mean our pay has gone down over the last seven years.

I am very much affected by the pension changes just like so many colleagues in GMP, and I too will be working longer and paying more to receive less. I understand and empathise with those who are affected and I believe that my personal circumstance will enable me to properly represent the views of everyone within GMP on a local and national stage.

I have been a Federation Representative for nine years and in March 2014 I was given the opportunity to further support colleagues when I was selected by other Federation Representatives from across the force to take up the role of full time Misconduct Leader. This is an absolutely pivotal role that goes to the very heart of why the Police Federation exists and that is to help colleagues at that most critical time of their lives and careers when they are facing a Gross Misconduct Investigation and the prospect of dismissal. It is partly due to encouragement from those I have helped that I am going for this role. I know that many of those colleagues would be very keen to provide their personal endorsement in this aspiration and they would talk about my pro-active and challenging style alongside an eye for detail – all qualities that an effective Chair of GMP Federation should display.

If you elect me as your Chair I promise you that I'll be very vocal in telling key leaders within GMP and our politicians exactly what you think. I would send a very strong message to those national Police Federation Representatives, whose job it is to negotiate your terms and conditions that they need to connect with and understand exactly what is happening on the front line. Gone are the days when we will just sit quietly and take whatever is thrown at us – we need to be on the front foot and take the fight to those who would devalue what we are worth and anyone who knows me will tell you that I am that strong voice. I will be a visible Chair who connects and communicates with you – our members.

I have spent the vast majority of my service on the front-line as either a Constable or Sergeant and I believe that as the Federation moves into a new era with a new structure that the time is now right for somebody with my background and experience to take us in a new direction. As your Chair, I believe that together we can achieve so much more.