South Yorkshire Police witness liaison officers in 3 day strike



Dozens of witness liaison officers (WLO) for South Yorkshire Police will go on strike for three days next week [1 - 3 December] in a dispute over pay.

GMB Union members are demanding the same pay as their counterparts at West Yorkshire Police - who are often paid £5,000 a year more for the same job.

Witness Liaison Officers provide support and assistance to victims and witnesses throughout the criminal justice process, often speaking with and supporting highly vulnerable individuals including rape, domestic and child abuse victims. Without them key evidence sessions in court are unlikely to go ahead.

Since the start of November, WLOs have been engaged in a work-to-rule and overtime ban.

GMB UNION

Despite the disruption, the Chief Constable has still not reached out to try and resolve the dispute.

Workers have now served notice to escalate - GMB warns of disruption to the criminal justice system as witness liaison officers walk out across South Yorkshire.

Joe Wheatley, GMB Regional Organiser, said:

"We had a positive meeting with the South Yorkshire Mayor in early November regarding the discrepancies in pay banding between forces.

"But since then workers have not had any correspondence from the Chief Constable.

"They are understandably angry and have voted for a full strike. Industrial action will escalate until their concerns are listened to."

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Member requiring help?

Click to contact your local GMB Region

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