

# UNISON members vote in favour of taking strike action at Hampshire Constabulary

Hampshire Constabulary has been informed by UNISON of the ballot results on the current dispute about proposed changes to the shift arrangements in the control room.

The control room in Hamble comprises 188 employees, including 161 civilian staff. Out of the 69 UNISON members that returned their ballot papers, 57 voted in favour of taking industrial action, including 53 voting in favour of strike action.

In response to the results and the press release sent out by UNISON, Deputy Chief Constable Ian Readhead said:

“I can reassure the public of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight that in the event of a strike in the police control room all 999 calls will still be answered and the response to emergencies will not be affected.

“UNISON has yet to notify Hampshire Constabulary about the dates and times of any potential strike action, but we have already prepared contingency plans in order to continue to provide a full emergency response service.

“Nevertheless it’s disappointing that some of those UNISON members within the control room who cast their vote have decided to vote for industrial action to pursue their interests.

“A strike will not remove the need for the constabulary to implement changes that are believed to have significant benefits not only for the work of control room staff, but also for the force and the public.

“The new shift pattern for the control room is already worked by colleagues across much of the force. Bringing the control room staff in line with them will build better working relations with more than 1,300 response police officers in Hampshire.

“The pattern will also be more flexible and allow us to better match our staffing levels to the demand so that we can deliver an improved service to the public.”