

There is a continuous need to modernise the police but caution is required with these plans – Diane Abbott

Diane Abbott MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, commenting on new Government plans that would allow civilians to compete for chief constable jobs, said:

"Caution is required with these plans. There is a continuous need to modernise the police, making it more diverse and representative of society as a whole, but many able officers will now wonder whether their own career paths could be blocked.

"This Tory Government have already reduced officer numbers by over 20,000 and broken their pledge to protect police funding in real terms.

"Neither the police nor the public will want to see people recruited from outside the service simply because of their willingness to implement further swingeing cuts."