

guide

# Two more top cops leaving the force

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TWO more of Hampshire's most senior police officers have announced they are leaving the force.

Deputy Chief Constable Ian Readhead and Assistant Chief Constable Steve Watts will depart in the autumn.

They follow Chief Constable Paul Kernaghan, who announced in April he would quit in October.

It will mean the loss of the three longest-standing members of the force's six-strong chief police officer team.

Mr Readhead, 53, who specialised in dealing with public order and led Hampshire officers to police the miners' strike in 1984, has announced he will retire on September 5.

Born in Hampshire, he joined the force as a cadet in 1971.

He said: 'During my career I have had to lead officers into very difficult public order situations.

'On occasions, and especially during the miners' dispute, I was aware of the fact that

we were trying to police fairly in a situation where brother was in conflict with brother and where communities were divided over whether or not to withdraw their labour. I sensed these divisions would prevail for many years after we left.'

He added: 'In more recent times my national role has been focused on trying to ensure key offenders, especially predatory paedophiles, have been unable to move around without our being aware of their locations.'

Mr Watts, 50, the head of specialist operations, will leave in September to become a policing advisor in Abu Dhabi.



**DCC Ian Readhead, above, and ACC Steve Watts**

