
SINGLE CREWING

Version 4

1. Policy statement

The Police Federation of England and Wales believes that the deployment of uniform foot patrols and marked police vehicles increases police visibility and helps provide public reassurance.

Cuts to police budgets have led to a reduction in police officers and more single crewing of patrols. At the same time assaults on police officers have increased. PFEW believes that Chief Officers and Police and Crime Commissioners should be investigating whether or not there is a link between the reduction in police officers numbers, more use of single crewing and an increase on assaults on police officers.

2. Responsibility

The National Board is responsible for all policy formation.

3. Summary

PFEW believes that the deployment of uniform foot patrols and marked police vehicles increases police visibility and contributes to public reassurance.

PFEW notes that as a consequence of cuts to police budgets police officer numbers have reduced and as a result forces are increasingly adopting the single crewing of patrols to maintain police visibility and contribute to public reassurance. However, PFEW believes that this should not have a detrimental impact on officer safety.

The number of assaults on police officers that have been recorded has increased concurrently with an increase in the use of single crewing of patrol. PFEW believes that Chief Officers and PCCs should investigate whether there is a link between the reduction of police officers and the use of single crewing and an increase in recorded assaults on police officers. If a link is found COs and PCCs should work with PFEW to avoid further increases on assaults in the future.

Chief Officers have a duty to safeguard the health and safety of police officers engaged in day to day patrol and response duties by identifying the relevant risk factors to be taken into account when making a management decision as to whether double or single crewing should be used. Risks must be assessed on a case by case basis by supervisors and Force Control Rooms (FCR). PFEW believes that supervisors and FCR staff who are responsible for the deployment of officers to incidents are also responsible for maintaining officer safety by ensuring that risk assessments based on all

available information known at the time are carried out and information is communicated to the officers attending.

4. Procedures/implementation

PFEW will press COs and PCCs to investigate the causes of the increase in recorded assaults on officers.

PFEW will work with the NPCC to develop a risk assessment process to identify those factors which have the most significant impact on officer safety and to work with individual forces to undertake risk assessments and the development of guidance to supervisors

Responsibility is delegated to the National Secretary and/or the appropriate sub-committee.

	Author	Date	Date to be reviewed	Change
Version 1	KP-EP	May 2015	May 2016	
Version 2	KP-EP	May 2016	May 2017	No change
Version 3	KP-EP	May 2017	May 2018	No change
Version 4	KP	January 2019	May 2020	Minor changes

Signed by:



National Secretary



National Secretary