

## Senior police ‘indifference’ to lives of officers

Some senior officers are guilty of having an ‘arrogant disregard’ for the welfare of their officers, according to the chairman of the Police Federation.

Paul McKeever said that some chiefs wanted to impose draconian shift patterns on their officers despite mounting evidence of an increase in officers dying on the way home at the end of night duty.

Federation research, unveiled in *Police* magazine last month, found that road collisions are the most common cause of death for officers travelling to and from work.

But rather than introduce an ‘enlightened policy’ to create shifts that prevent officers dying when travelling home, some senior officers wanted to change the regulations.

“Then those officers no longer are seen as being on duty and are therefore no longer a problem to some leaders in ACPO,” said Mr McKeever.

“They [ACPO] have demonstrated a cold unyielding indifference to the lives of officers which is further compounded by the government’s plan to change legislation to remove pension protections from those killed whilst travelling to and from work.

“Those senior officers who appear to have an arrogant disregard for the welfare of officers; we call on them to show leadership and gain the respect of those they should be leading. Like the majority of their colleagues in ACPO.”

Mr McKeever also expressed his outrage that convicted killers of police officers could be set free, in particular Harry Roberts who killed three officers in London in 1966 and former US-marine David Bieber who murdered West Yorkshire officer Ian Broadhurst in 2003.

“They should never see the light of day. The rights of people like Roberts and Bieber should never be put above the rights of police officers. The only outcome is for them to see the end of their days in their prison cells.”

## CJS is ‘Hokey Cokey’

The chairman of the Police Federation has lambasted the Director of Public Prosecutions for deliberately ‘building walls’ around his ‘Crown Prosecution System Empire’.

Paul McKeever said that despite assurances from the DPP Keir Starmer, he was ‘putting up protectionist barriers in relation to charging offenders in particular’.

During his address to annual Federation Conference in Bournemouth Mr McKeever also attacked the government for creating the ‘Hokey Cokey’ Criminal Justice System. “It’s in out, in out, let all the prisoners out. In out, in out, shake the system about.”

He said officers were ‘sick to death’ of repeatedly seeing the same people. “We’re creating one person crime waves. How many times do you want us to arrest criminals before they are dealt with effectively in the Criminal Justice System.”

Roger Baker, chief constable of Essex police, waded into the debate during his address the following day. He said: “CPS charging. There needs to be a debate on returning this [CPS charging] decision to where it belongs and that is with the custody sergeant.”

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith sympathised with officers who waste time needlessly waiting for the CPS to make a decision on what charges to bring in a case.

“You should be out there policing – not standing by a fax machine waiting for someone to get back to you.”

CPS charging is to be reviewed amid criticism that officers are spending too much time ‘waiting by fax machines’. Speaking at this year’s Federation conference, Ms Smith promised to review guidance on the CPS charging arrangements. “I want the system streamlined so that you get the best possible service and a quicker turnaround, even with the serious cases that require a CPS decision I want more time freed up for you to focus on the things that matter.”

Road incidents: forces have duty of care to officers



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Paul McKeever: officers sick of seeing same people



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