

Question time

f Gathered around the bar over a few drinks or perhaps when you're feeling a bit tetchy after sifting through a mountain of paperwork at your police station or office, have you ever uttered something similar to: 'I would just like to get the Home Secretary for two minutes and tell him what I think should be done to improve the police service?' Perhaps the terminology may differ slightly, but the Federation's annual conference in Blackpool could be your chance to ask the Home Secretary about the things which matter to you most.

Unfortunately, both the Home Secretary, at the time of going to press, and the shadow home secretary were unable to give *Police* an interview to ask questions on your behalf. However, conference will cover a whole array of issues from diversity in the service to civilianisation and you should make the most of the opportunity air your views at a time when the service is undergoing massive change. If you would like to put forward a question log on to www.polfed.org and click into the conference section.



Editorial by Syreeta Lund Deputy Editor of Police magazine

What do you think?
We would like to hear your views on the issues discussed in this month's magazine.

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Gaps in training that could cost lives

f As concern grows around the number of deaths related to police pursuits, we examine research from the Federation that reveals huge inconsistencies in the training

given to those carrying out pursuits. Police drivers on the road can undergo training of anything from one day to five weeks. See special feature page 20,21 and 23.



Brave hearts

f This issue of *Police* features a tribute to DC Stephen Oake, who alongside colleagues from Greater Manchester Police, stepped in to try to restrain Kamel Bourgass, a suspected terrorist who plotted to kill members of the public by spreading the poison ricin.

DC Oake died after being stabbed by Bourgass as he struggled to prevent him from escaping. His actions are truly heroic and Paul Kelly, chairman of the Greater Manchester Police Federation, makes his feelings

clear about the sacrifice he made and of his wish that DC Oake should be awarded the George Cross, rarely given to police officers.

Yet, police officers put their lives on the line every day, going beyond the call of duty. We also feature a selection of those police officers who have been nominated for the Federation's Police Bravery Awards for their dedication to keeping the public safe and often putting themselves in harms way to do so.



In Focus



Norman Dennis, director of the community studies at Civitas, takes a look at police numbers in Britain and how officers are being taken away from their basic function to deter crime on the streets. He will feature as a guest speaker at the Federation's constables' conference on May 17 in Blackpool. Pages 13,14 and 15.



Federation research finds police officers involved in pursuits are being let down by some chief officers who fail to provide proper training. The research finds massive inconsistencies in training at a time when the national media are highlighting deaths associated with such pursuits. Pages 20,21,23.



Paul Kelly, chairman of the Greater Manchester Police Federation, pays tribute to DC Stephen Oake, after reporting restrictions are lifted on the case of Kamal Bourgass, who stabbed the officer to death during a counter-terrorism raid in Manchester. He says why DC Oake deserves to get the George Cross for his selfless act of bravery. Page 8.