


Insensitive investigations stop police victims reporting domestic violence

 Police officers who are the victims of domestic violence are fearful of reporting it to their own forces because they can face shame and a 'less than sensitive investigation' by professional standards departments.

Det Insp Angela Wright made the comments to around 200 delegates, representing forces across the country, at the Federation's Eve of Women's Conference in Blackpool this month.

Det Insp Wright said there is evidence that police officers are reluctant to report domestic violence, having to deal 'with the shame of colleagues knowing' their circumstances and a 'less than sensitive investigation' by professional standards departments.

The officer added that force processes police officers have to go through mean they can end up being disadvantaged, such as when they need to take leave

from their jobs because of their circumstances, they could miss out on extra payments which are linked to attendance.

'When officers take time off sick they will be penalised,' Det Insp Wright told the conference, adding that it could affect promotion opportunities, special priority payments and competency related threshold payments because they can take into account the amount of sick leave taken.

Det Con Jackie Bagguley said they aimed to try to raise awareness of the subject and pointed out that there are 16 million victims of domestic violence victims in the UK and that 19 per cent are male.

The officer said that although they welcomed the ACPO policy on making sure perpetrators of domestic violence were being dealt with properly, she urged delegates to call on chief officers to support police officers who are victims of domestic violence.



Angela Wright and Jackie Bagguley: Police officers feel shame as domestic violence victims


Det Con Bagguley added that ACPO should publish a policy to that effect, providing train-

ing for representatives to deal with victims of such a 'dreadful crime'.

Affirmative action is 'daft' and reduces police officers to numbers not individuals, according to equality advisor



Jayne Monkhouse, the Federation's equality advisor

 Promoting women or ethnic minority police officers by prioritising them over other applicants is a 'daft idea' which could make a bad situation worse says Jayne Monkhouse, the Federation's equality advisor.

The National Black Police Association has spoken out supporting affirmative action and the British Association of Women in Policing are set to debate possible support of such a move for women officers.

However, speaking at the Federation's Women's Eve of

Conference, Ms Monkhouse said: 'It [affirmative action] reduces people to numbers, to members of a group rather than individuals.'

Affirmative action has been suggested over a number of years to boost the numbers of police officers from ethnic minorities but Ms Monkhouse said 'it was a daft idea then and is a daft idea now'.

She told delegates that affirmative action set people up to fail and that individuals would know they were not recruited fairly and their

colleagues would know.

Ms Monkhouse said chief officers moaned that they could not meet targets to recruit ethnic minorities so they had simply called for a change in the law to allow affirmative action.

'The service needs to be made into a police service that attracts people from minority groups,' she said, adding that there needed to be positive action to recruit and a look at why minority groups were not joining and staying in the service.