

Chief constable offends officers over 'work rates'

Officers from North Yorkshire raised concerns over mounting workloads and a lack of frontline police but were told by their chief constable that work rates showed some were 'not very busy at all'.

Della Cannings, chief constable of North Yorkshire Police, responded to questions from police officers at the local federation open meeting last month.

An officer from one of the force's response teams said there was a lack of resources on the teams to the extent where they would regularly start a shift with only two officers to cover.

He asked Mrs Cannings: "When are we going to reinforce frontline cops?" adding that they need more officers on the streets allowing sergeants and inspectors to monitor performance properly, instead of being scrutinised over pie charts and targets.

Mrs Cannings said that there were concerns that some officers were getting the calls and doing the work and others in specialist departments were 'protected'. "We have been very careful to make sure there are 1,100 police officers out there working, that's more officers than we have ever had in this force."

But she then told delegates she had a copy of a document which analysed the work rates of police officers. She said: "To be quite honest, there are many, some of who may be in this room or many colleagues, who are not exactly busy –with only one arrest every eight shifts."

She said that surely 'as managers they should be expecting them to earn their keep.'

But one officer from the force stood up and questioned the level of recognition officers were getting for the work they carry out. He said that it may take eight shifts to make one arrest and that there were officers working 'themselves to the bone', adding it was disrespectful to his colleagues to use those figures.

Della Cannings: caused concern when she said some officers are not very busy



Photography: Police Federation



Illustration: Ross Tudor

Designer hooligans

Most people would think English football hooligans sport a skinhead and England football shirt - but they are more likely to wear designer clothes and have a trendy haircut, according to the officer who led British bobbies in Germany.

Supt Roger Evans, a Met officer leading a team of uniformed police officers patrolling ports and airports to check for potential trouble-makers at the World Cup, says that the stereotype of the English football hooligan is far from the truth.

"The stereotype of an English hooligan is a skinhead but they are much more likely to have an expensive haircut and shirt, but not an England shirt, they would not be seen dead in one," he tells *Police* magazine.

Supt Evans said: "We have said to German officers that being a Brit with a shaved head does not mean hooligan, but German hooligans do tend to have a skinhead, so there are cultural differences."

True England fans: relax after Sweden v England game



Photography: Empics