



Paul Davis, secretary of the operational policing sub-committee

Federation focus

There are many roles within the service that are captured under the umbrella of operational policing. A 24/7 patrol officer, dog handler or even an officer in a specialist role such as detective, traffic, firearms or air support fall into this category.

What does the Police Federation's operational sub-committee do to assist you in an operational capacity? All forms of issues affecting operational policing are considered within the sub-committee ranging from officer safety, public order, chemical, radiological, biological and nuclear capability and firearms to name but a few.

Currently, we have been focusing on a number of issues, including safety training, post incident procedures and Taser in order to push for change for the benefit of officers.

Three years ago we identified that officer safety training was lacking in some forces which has a direct effect on the welfare of our members. We embarked on a survey of safety training, with the help of local Federations, to identify any weaknesses or best practice in training, delivery and consistency throughout England and Wales. We found that officer safety training is still being delivered in different ways, the number of hours set aside was inconsistent, and in some cases failed to meet ACPO guidelines. Best practice is not always being shared to ensure the service is providing the best training for officers on the street. We eagerly await the findings of a review being conducted by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, a review instigated by the Federation (see *Streetwise*, page 19).

Still on the theme of officer safety, we have worked tirelessly to ensure officers have been made aware of developments of the new CBRN awareness package. This has been sent to all chief constables and if you haven't already seen it, ask your local Federation representative.

The sub-committee has also been involved in discussions on Taser and wants the kit to be available to more operational officers and not limited to firearms officers.

We are still waiting for an answer from the Home Office on the extension of its use. They are quick to change their personnel but not their policies affecting the police officers of England and Wales.

High profile cases have recently highlighted the importance of officers being supported by the Police Federation following involvement in a shooting, fatal collision or death in custody. We are now offering a post incident procedures seminar for Federation representatives to provide the very best support for you.

We are also considering future work around behavioural science, a new concept in the UK. This will help us to understand more about the effects on your body whilst you are responding to an incident and what training can be delivered to ensure you are best equipped to deal with a situation.

We all see and interpret things in different ways, which is why we must think in the future how we, as a Federation, investigate an incident that has led to an officer being investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Rest assured we continue to work on your behalf to ensure you receive the appropriate training, equipment and the best possible service from us.