



Alan Jones, Federation lead on roads policing

On the road to consistency?

Why is it that a roads policing officer working collaboratively between forces finds themselves stepping in and out of a hodgepodge of vehicles, some with state-of-the-art equipment others lack? Their experience will resonate with officers carrying out the same role all over the country because we still do not have a standard fit for purpose vehicle across all 43 forces. The Federation has been pursuing a policy that would see a consistency of standards for vehicles supplied by manufacturers, including built in technology and a solid infrastructure to ensure officers can carry out their roles to the best of their ability.

However, we are extremely disappointed at the response, or lack of response, from ACPO in terms of driving the project forward and hope to be able to tackle the issue at the second Joint Road Policing Conference, run between the Federation and ACPO, on November 26 and 27 at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham. The conference will also feature guest speakers giving an insight into a whole host of issues affecting officers from technology to disqualified drivers and learning and development.

Another issue the Federation are keen to pursue is also a push for consistency in the way roads policing officers are trained, it's essential that those who do a tough job, dealing with the sometimes horrendous consequences of traffic incidents, have the right accredited skills for the job. We are hoping for some positive and robust recommendations to emerge from the long and detailed report commissioned by ACPO into roads policing training which will hopefully be delivered by April next year.

Last month no one could have failed to have been touched by the tragic outcome of the collision on the M6 motorway, which claimed the lives of six people including four children. The deaths are yet another example of the truly appalling tragedies every year faced by around 3,000 families, with countless others suffering serious and life threatening injuries.

We should never forget that it takes a special person who has to understand the heartache and deal with the horrendous carnage crashes can cause. Police officers, amongst other emergency service workers and casualty staff, can never be trained to handle such trauma without it making an impact on their lives also. The magnitude, social and human cost, linked to road crashes must remain at the top of the agenda when it comes to resourcing and ensuring our roads policing teams are properly staffed, trained and equipped.

They deserve the very best representation and respect for what they do day in and day out, and we just hope that those present at our conference, including ACPO representatives as well as Vernon Coaker, under secretary for police and security, take this on board when looking at making policies and pushing this area of policing forward.

What do you think?

Are your roads policing vehicles adequate and do you believe there needs to be consistency?

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