

Officers still face ‘shield run’ despite tribunal ruling

Police forces are still trying to enforce the ‘riot shield run’ despite an employment tribunal ruling it discriminatory.

Female officers at the Police Federation’s National Reserve Seat meeting last month reported how they are still being made to do the 500-metre run in full riot gear with a shield although it is not deemed to be essential for an officer in public order situations.

Julie Nesbit, chair of the Federation’s Constables’ Central Committee and member of the reserve seat group, said: “We hope that the judgement which ruled the shield run as discriminatory will trickle down into forces. Some forces have obviously not caught up with the ruling and they could leave themselves open to action against them if they continue to enforce the tests.”

The ruling came in June last year when Inspector Diane Bamber, 51, supported by Manchester Police Federation, brought an age and sex discrimination case against her force at an employment tribunal.

The officer, who has served for more than 30 years, had been attending an Initial Public Order Commanders’ Course in Manchester back in 2008 and told the tribunal she had been led to believe she would not have to take part in the shield run. However, she was told she would be taking part and did not complete the test – a 500-metre run in full riot kit within two minutes 45 seconds. She could not do the run in the allocated time and as a result was told she could not complete the rest of the training course.

Ian Hanson, chair elect of Manchester Police Federation, said: “It is absolutely incredible that forces are ignoring a judicial finding that the test is unlawful and discriminatory. Not only are they ignoring the judgement they are leaving themselves open to potentially massive bills in potential litigation.”

The shield run test was set up in the Met following the riots at Notting Hill Carnival in the 1980s but was adopted by other forces, despite having little scientific veracity.

Some officers still face a 500-metre ‘riot shield run’ in training



Photography: Gavin MacVicar / iStockphoto

Federation launches charity fund for orphaned teenagers

Leicestershire Police Federation has launched a fund for Adam and Kimberley Day, the two children of former Leicestershire Inspector Toby Day.

Toby, his wife Samantha and their six-year-old daughter Genevieve died in an incident at their home address in Melton Mowbray on Thursday December 8. Adam, 13 and 15-year-old Kimberley were also seriously injured.

“Police officers and staff have been shocked and saddened by these deaths and everyone’s thoughts are with Adam and Kimberley who have been orphaned in such shocking circumstances,” says Ivan Stafford, chair of Leicestershire Police Federation.

If anyone wants to make a donation to the fund which will help provide financial security for Adam and Kimberley, please send your donations to the HSBC, sort code: 403214, account: 91606077. Cheques can also be sent made payable to the Leicestershire Fund.

Tributes were left at the house where Toby, Samantha and Genevieve Day died



Photography: Rui Vieira / PA Wire