



Federation response to plans to review self defence laws

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Responding to news that the self defence laws are to be reviewed, Jan Berry, chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales, says:

“Reviewing the current self defence laws and putting policy in place to protect the victim is a laudable sentiment; but it is worth remembering this is not the first time the current government has considered such a measure. Two years ago, as Home Secretary, Charles Clarke and his team found the legal implications of this fell short of a deliverable solution”.

“It is irresponsible for a government, either current or shadow, to use such a potentially dangerous subject to demonstrate a proactive stance on crime – not least the danger of raising public expectation when the reality is not achievable”.

“We need common sense laws that protect the law abiding public against a minority of offenders but we don't want this to act as a green light to use excessive force nor to encourage people to take the law into their own hands”.