

POLICE

Police Magazine Update

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Officers question abuse of officers in the acting rank

Acting inspectors and sergeants are being 'over-used' and 'abused' as a cheaper option, a Federation representative told Hampshire Open Meeting.

Sgt Wendy Douglas asked chief constable Alex Marshall why those performing in an acting role in the sergeant and inspector ranks were not being properly trained and identified and accused the force of abusing those used for acting up duties, which cost the force less than giving officers temporary promotions.

When officers are acting up in a rank it should be a short-term measure but after 56 days they should be moved to temporary promotion unless they are not qualified. In an acting role officers are paid less than in a temporary promotion.

Steve Fisher, secretary of the Constables' Branch Board in Hampshire, said he had a constable who had been an acting sergeant for six months and he asked about being put forward for temporary promotion but did not want it to ruin his career by putting the question forward.

Mr Marshall said that he was not aware of the scale of acting [roles] in the force but added that there is a 'trigger point' by a certain date where officers should be made temporary.

John Apter, chair of Hampshire Police Federation, said that he thought this was an issue of people not being aware they should be paid after 56 days and the chief had put measures in place to deal with the situation.

Ian Rennie, general secretary of the Police Federation, said that a PNB agreement had stated a qualification period for payment at the higher rank is ten days and at 56 days officers are supposed to have been made temporary – in an attempt to stop abuse of the acting rank.