

Police are not 'rude'

The public do have a good relationship with the public despite reports by the Independent Police Complaints Commission that nearly half of complaints relate to 'neglect of duty or rudeness'.

Steve Evans, secretary of the Federation's professional standards subcommittee, said the number of complaints against officers was not high considering the number of confrontational situations officers have to deal with every day.

His comments follow a report by the IPCC on the number of complaints against the police in England and Wales for 2007/08, which states that last year 28,963 complaint cases were recorded by police forces in the year ending March 2008, with six out of ten complaints alleging either neglect of duty, rudeness and intolerance or common assault.

Nick Hardwick, chairman of the IPCC, said: "It is unacceptable that nearly half of all complaints involve neglect or rudeness."

One in eight complaint cases involve an appeal to the police watchdog – with 28 percent being upheld, a figure Mr Evans believes is not particularly high.

He added: this shows around two thirds of complaints are not substantiated and argues that police officers on the ground do have a generally positive relationship with the public.

He said: "We always see people at their worst; we are arresting them or getting involved in a domestic situation or even stopping them to give them a ticket. When you think that there are 140,000 officers working 24/7, 365 days a year, the number of complaints is relatively low.

"When officers get things wrong they should be investigated, the public have to have confidence but given the nature of policing the number of complaints is not particularly high.

Tory's claim to back police

The public should 'sympathise' with police as the government fail to back them to do their jobs, claims the shadow Home Secretary at the Conservative Party Conference.

Dominic Grieve hit out at the government for not supporting police officers when he spoke to delegates at the conference, held in Birmingham last month.

He said that 'micro-management' of the police officers by central government is the 'single biggest drain on police time, officer morale and public confidence'.

Mr Grieve added that police officers don't sign up to spend half a day processing a single arrest and proposed that the Conservative Party would 'dramatically cut back the form-filling that drives a wedge between the police and public'.

The Labour Party has already scrapped the vast stop and search forms for officers but Mr Grieve said they would take it further by removing all the paperwork connected to stop and search.

He also pledged they would get rid of the bureaucracy attached to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act [RIPA] saying he could not see why RIPA authorisation is needed for police officers to patrol in plain-clothes, watch a house or identify a subject.

The party has claimed they will cut targets and shave excessive checks on forces which led one force to undergo 15 different inspections in a single year.

He told delegates: "Backing officers means trusting them, their professional discretion, and their common sense."

The police and public do still have a good relationship



Photography: Police Federation

Dominic Grieve: police should be trusted



Photography: Fiona Hanson/PA Wire/PA Photos