



# PROTECTING THE PROTECTORS

## The reality of policing

Annual Conference 22 - 23 May  
Birmingham International Convention Centre

#polfed18  
[www.polfed.org/conf](http://www.polfed.org/conf)

**Calum Macleod, Chair, Police Federation of England and Wales**

### **Opening speech**

**\*\*\*PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY\*\*\***

Good morning colleagues and guests alike and welcome to the Police Federation of England and Wales Annual conference 2018.

This conference, as it should be, is firmly centred on our members, those whom we represent.

The sessions this year are focused on the realities they and the public face on a day to day basis.

The reality of how each day police officers place themselves in harm's way for the public, for young and old alike, for your families and for mine. The reality that the pressure being placed on officers is unprecedented; the reality that keeping the public safe is becoming increasingly difficult to achieve.

Quite simply conference, we are here for them. We are here so that their voice can be heard. We all have a duty to represent them ..... to be their voice. To air their concerns, to seek solutions on their behalf and to challenge where challenge is needed.

We should never take for granted what they do and why they do it, sometimes paying the highest possible price.

Just weeks before conference, we heard the incredibly sad news of the untimely death of a recently retired Federation official who did just that. A man who put the members first - who spoke out when he saw things that had a negative impact on policing and the service we provide to the public.

Taken too soon, our friend and ex-Federation colleague, Kevin Phillips, from Avon and Somerset.

Our condolences go to his family, friends and colleagues at this extremely difficult time.

Colleagues, every day our members protect the communities we serve by selflessly putting themselves between danger and the public. And every year, we pay tribute to our colleagues that you - the local branch boards - nominate for a Police Bravery Award.



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Let us now look back at the bravery awards 2017.

These are fine examples of men and women whose bravery has been acknowledged but let us also pay tribute to the thousands of officers who display courage and bravery every day across England and Wales.

This year we will be hosting the Police Bravery Awards on 12 July.

Over the next two days we will have an opportunity to question those in policing and politics who are joining us in our panel debates and sessions. We will all have an opportunity to make our voice heard and to do what our members expect from us.

Enjoy conference and please participate in the debates we will have.

Before I come to housekeeping matters I have an important announcement to make.

Today at 1430 hours I ask you to join the country in holding a minute's silence to remember the anniversary of the Manchester Arena bombing - a night in which indescribable evil again descended upon our country.

Let us remember all those who lost their lives including Elaine McIver, one of our colleagues from Cheshire police who was off duty at the time.

Let us also remember the terrible incident of drummer Lee Rigby which took place 5 years ago today.

Through both these incidents there was incredible courage, compassion and professionalism from our members - and others from the emergency services.

Now, before the formal opening of conference, I am required to quickly run through a few ICC housekeeping rules with you.

Please can delegates put all mobile devices on silent.

Smoking and e-cigarettes are not permitted in the conference halls or in the main Mall.

ICC Hosts are dressed in branded waistcoats if you require any assistance. In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions of the Hosts.

If it is necessary to evacuate the building, a recorded message will be broadcast throughout the venue asking delegates to leave by the nearest available exit. The evacuation zone is outside the ICC at the Civic Centre Estate. Follow the instructions of the Hosts at all times.



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For medical assistance, alert a Host who will contact a first aider.

Please ensure you take all of your belongings with you, and do not leave items unattended at any time. Lost property is taken to Security Control, should you misplace anything please ask a Host for assistance.

Finally, it is not permitted to take food or open drinks into the auditoriums.

Colleagues; we now come to the formal opening of conference.

I ask you to adopt standing orders.

Can I have a show of hands that you accept?

Thank you.

Can I ask John Nott, the chief steward, to step forward to make himself known. Please liaise with John if you have any queries.

Thank you John.

Please could you advise Jill Vale of any last conference names by lunchtime tomorrow latest. Jill can be found in the Chairman's Office.

Colleagues, now more than ever our members' voices need to be heard.

May I now introduce our facilitator for the week....

He has his own radio show on LBC and is often seen on news channels doing newspaper reviews.

I am delighted to say that he has returned for a third year to facilitate the entire conference for us.

Please enjoy conference and give a warm welcome to Ian Collins.