

‘I went from fearing for my job to Police Officer Of The Year’

Case study: **Mark Walsh**

Mark Walsh went from fearing for his career to becoming Police Officer of the Year – thanks in part to his Federation rep.

The Northamptonshire PC was facing a gross misconduct charge over an allegation of excessive use of force. The complainant had bitten Mark and his colleague and then claimed he was HIV positive, which put a huge strain on the officer’s personal life. Mark turned to his Federation rep Colin Carr and received invaluable assistance. “Colin was absolutely outstanding throughout,” Mark said. “He was very

supportive, gave plenty of sound advice and would regularly check up on me. The whole case made me so angry and I could vent off at him.

“It was clear he was an officer who had been in the same shoes that I was now in, so I knew he could understand.

“I would sit up at night panicking that I would lose my job, home and my family due to the stress of it all. Colin slowed things down

for me, and after his research, he challenged the Professional Standards Department.

“As a result of this, I was commended for my actions and awarded Northants Police Officer of the Year 2017.

“The whole experience

has damaged my confidence in the job and in doing the job, without Colin’s help and support, I dread to think what could have occurred.”

Mark was diagnosed with anxiety, and suffered other illnesses during the 12 months he was under investigation, but for him the experience he has had proves the worth of the Federation.

“I served 16 years in the Army, 11 years currently in Northants Police and I have at least another 14 years to serve,” he added.

“I hope I don’t need the Fed services again, but the help received from Colin is worth every penny I paid in, and will keep paying in.”

Could you be a Fed rep? Find out how you can get involved at www.polfed.org/repsatwork