

## Concern over inexperience in CID

Officers who have only just finished their training are being drafted into CID departments to bolster numbers and work on serious cases such as stranger rapes.

Early indications from research by the Federation on CID departments reveals concerns over a lack of resilience.

The research was carried out in force focus groups in South Wales, North Wales, Staffordshire, Greater Manchester, Hampshire and the Met, Lancashire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire in CID departments.

The groups represented ranks from detective constable to detective inspector and discovered a common theme of inexperienced officers being used to maintain numbers.

Alan Gordon, vice-chairman of the Police Federation, said: "Early indications are already showing a disturbing picture of how criminal investigation departments are operating throughout the country. The lack of experience and properly trained detectives is of particular concern. As with uniform colleagues their attention is very often directed towards incidents that fulfil targets and there is frustration that they are unable to concentrate on investigative detective functions."

He added that inexperienced officers are investigating serious offences like stranger rapes with little or no supervision and trainee detectives are providing night cover for a whole operational command unit area.

A CID officer in South Wales told a focus group that they were understaffed throughout 2006 in his area with added pressure when people were off sick. He said: "I've lost count of the number of times I worked on my own covering a whole division on evenings, weekends."

## Federation call for Honda motorbike withdrawal

The Police Federation is asking chief officers to withdraw the Honda Pan European ST1300A motorbike for police use after an inquest ruled it posed a 'threat' to the life of officers when driven at more than 80mph.

The move follows the coroner's inquest into the death of PC David Shreeve in 2005 when he was killed on a training course as the model of ST1300A model became uncontrollable.

The coroner stated during the inquest that the motorbike in police specification poses a 'serious and continued threat to the health and life of officers using the motorcycle in excess of 80mph'.

Jan Berry, chairman of the Federation said: "In view of the coroner's pronouncement we have written to the Association of Chief Police Officers calling on them to immediately withdraw the Honda ST1300A motorcycle from police use until further investigations have been carried out."

## Police minister supports Taser rollout to 'regular' officers

Taser should be extended to frontline officers, according to police minister Tony McNulty as the less-lethal weapon is due to rolled out to more specialist groups at the end of this month.

Mr McNulty told *Police* that he would like to 'look at a further pilot for regular officers' to use Taser as the Police Federation understands the piece of kit is likely to be extended for use beyond firearms officers to other 'specialist groups'.

George Appleby, chairman of the Federation's operational policing sub-committee, will tell delegates at this year's conference in Blackpool that Taser is set to be extended.

Inexperienced officers are dealing with rape



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Taser: should be rolled out



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