
UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT

Version 3

1. Policy statement

The Police Federation of England and Wales has always taken the leading role in officer safety. Officers should be safe in the knowledge that all has been done to protect their safety; this means appropriate, reliable equipment and sufficient back-up officers (including Authorised Firearms Officers) should they be required. This requires Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners budgeting for continual investment in uniform and equipment, year-on-year.

2. Responsibility

The INB is responsible for all policy formation.

3. Summary

PFEW believes that all officers need proper and comprehensive officer safety training and regular refresher courses.

PFEW believes that to maintain adequate levels of officer safety, Chief Constables and PCCs will need to budget for continual investment in body armour, in the same way as other pieces of protective kit. It should not come as a shock. Investing in safety should be part of a force's on-going budget, year on year. Since personal safety is officers' number one priority, having or not having access to body armour could well be the difference between them feeling confident to go out on the streets or not.

The Police Service has a duty to ensure officers are issued with the best possible equipment for their physical protection. This includes effective batons to combat assailants, ballistic and knife resistant vests suitable for operational wear, and CS or 'pepper' sprays, Controlled Energy Devices (Tasers) to enable officers to immobilise violent people. At present police forces are effectively waiting for incidents to occur before they make the investment. The most valuable policing resources, the officers themselves, must receive the very best protection available.

In an area in which technology moves quickly, we must move with the times. Technological developments will continue, thereby making the vests of the future even safer and more comfortable than those currently available. Forces should budget for a regular replacement programme, with the financial considerations at the bottom of the list of priorities and officer safety at the very top.

PFEW supports the wearing of body worn cameras for operational police officers. This must be accompanied by proper guidelines and training to ensure the best evidence gathering. PFEW believes that the cameras will demonstrate the professionalism of officers and show the challenges

faced by colleagues on a daily basis. They will also help protect officers in terms of malicious and vexatious complaints.

PFEW believes it is essential for police officers to have the right technology to do the job.

PFEW does not believe that there needs to be a different uniform for women but the service needs to ensure the provision of uniformed clothing which enables female officers to work comfortably and effectively. One size does not fit all. There is a real challenge ahead for the service to get it right and provide women with a uniform that is professional, smart and crucially fit for purpose.

PFEW believes that a national uniform or standardised mode of dress would undoubtedly enhance the professional image of the Police service, maximise visibility and in turn increase public confidence in the service provided.

4. Procedures/implementation

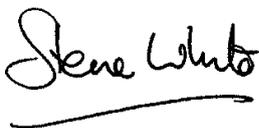
Through the Operational Policing and Health and Safety Sub-Committees PFEW will continue to press for making the wearing of appropriate protective vests mandatory for operational policing.

PFEW will work with National Police Chfs Council and the College of Policing to ensure that there is a joined up approach with body worn cameras to avoid problems with interoperability.

Responsibility is delegated to the General Secretary and/or appropriate sub-committee.

	Author	Date	Date to be reviewed	Change
Version 1	KP-EP	March 2015	March 2016	
Version 2	KP – EP	March 2016	March 2017	No change
Version 3	KP-EP	March 2017	March 2018	No change

Signed by:



Chairman



General Secretary