

**“The thing I am proudest of as a rep is that people look to you for help”**

Sgt Richie Poole has been a Devon and Cornwall officer for 23 years and a Fed rep for eight.

“I became a Fed rep after I was involved in a serious head on collision whilst responding to a job. Multiple cars were involved and while I wasn’t badly injured, other parties were seriously hurt. Understandably as the police driver, I was subject to an investigation.

“I had full Federation support, which was fantastic. I was given legal support for the criminal investigation and the advice my rep, Andy, gave was second to none. I was eventually exonerated and when there was a (failed) private prosecution the Fed supported me then too. It was phenomenal and I thought ‘I want to help like that and make sure other officers get that positive experience’.



**Richie Poole, Devon and Cornwall Police**

**“ I’ve held many different, exciting roles in my career but being a Fed rep is by far the best for job satisfaction. ”**

“I’ve actually had two stints of being a rep; the first was a traffic roads policing sergeants rep under the old structure, but when I changed roles I had to stand down. I stood again during the last elections and became a full time geographic rep, which I love.

“I know how it made me feel to have that support when I needed it; it put me in a better place emotionally, mentally and professionally.

“The thing I am proudest of as a rep, is that people look to you for help. Sometimes, where they have nowhere to turn, you’re the first person they think of. You’re contactable, always helping. I know that can be seen as a bit of a ball and chain, but to be able to be there for a colleague who needs it is fantastic.

“If anyone is thinking of becoming a rep I would say do it! You might think you don’t have the right skills or experience, but you do. For every question, there are different answers. For every problem there is more than one solution.

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