

## “You’re helping your own police family”

Surrey Police officer PC Louise Miller was spurred on to become a Fed rep after a horrific five-year investigation.

“I was involved in a death in custody and what followed was a hellish five years. I was accompanied by my solicitor and my Fed rep for an Independent Police Complaints Commission interview (now Independent Office for Police Conduct) and while the situation was terrible, my rep was amazing. He looked after me, answered my questions straight away and the communication between the Fed and high ranking officers within the force was brilliant.



Louise Miller, Surrey Police

“It made me feel supported not just by the Fed but by the whole institution, as my rep made sure the force was supporting me while I was restricted, and that there was a good line of communication at all times. Five years after it had happened I had to give evidence for four days at the inquest and the Chair of the branch came and was with me every day, encouraging me and supporting me.

“I approached the Federation to offer help for anyone who was involved in inquests as I had

“**You get job satisfaction like no other.**”

advice and tips I could give. I was asked if I’d considered being a Fed rep and decided to go for it. People had given so much of their time for me and I’d had such incredible support during my tough times, I wanted to do the same for those that needed it.

“I was intimidated at the beginning as I thought it was a world of policies and

procedures that I wasn’t familiar with, but the Federation’s training courses were brilliant, and I came away knowing that I could do the job.

“The thing I’m proudest of is helping a probationer who was on the edge of being sacked. He’d been called for a Regulation 13 meeting and was thinking of resigning. I asked him if he thought how he was being treated was fair, which he didn’t. Instead of leaving he chose to fight for the job he loved and won. I’ve heard he’s getting on really well and is likely to get through his probation and it’s the most satisfying thing I’ve ever done.

“I work part-time now as I have a family, and juggle being an officer and a rep. But I think if I can do it, anyone can! I’m flexible with my time and it comes together. If you’re thinking of becoming a rep then please do it. You get job satisfaction like no other and you’re helping your own police family”.