

Roads Ahead

Police Federation Roads Policing Newsletter
Volume 18

April 2014

Contents

- Address from the Police Minister
- Setting the scene
- Secretary of State for Transport
- Policing the roads – the national context
- Professionalising roads policing
- Strategic road network solutions
- Pursuits
- Roads policing award winners
- Smart motorways & new technology
- Roadside data access
- Intelligent transport systems
- ANPR – the golden thread



Welcome

Earlier this year it gave me great pleasure to welcome professionals from the roads policing arena to our national conference. It was an inspiration to share the event with delegates, speakers and exhibitors who care so passionately about policing the roads. Once again, the critical role performed by roads policing officers throughout the country was clear and I left conference with even more admiration for those out there doing the job every day in such difficult circumstances.

I stated at conference that the crucial role roads policing officers play in tackling crime needs to be recognised by politicians – especially now as the number of roads policing officers in England and Wales has plummeted to the lowest they have been in recorded history. Yet the pressure and demands to meet operational requirements and service frontline policing needs is as demanding as ever. And so the sad reality of government reforms continues.

On a more positive note, Patrick McLoughlin, Secretary of State for Transport attended conference and announced £120,000 in funding for station-based cannabis screening devices. The new devices mean there will be no need to wait for a medical practitioner to advise whether a driver's condition is the result of taking a drug and this will save time and money. Mr McLoughlin also said that they are also working to get mobile screening devices made available.

Without question, we can catch more criminals, do more preventative work, gather more vital intelligence and apply that to frontline policing if we can harness better co-ordinated equipment and operate it in a consistent way.

Policing the roads is a serious, high public profile business and deserves far better understanding from some Chief Officers, PCCs, politicians and HMIC for what it does in keeping the public safe.

At conference I was also pleased to report on the significant work that has been made in the last 12 months in relation to managing and handling police pursuits.

The roads policing conference this year gave us all the opportunity to draw on the skills and expertise from throughout the country in order to network and find a way forward. I thank those who attended and those who participated from afar. We remain united in our common goal to ensure roads policing remains core to the policing portfolio.



John Giblin
PFEW Roads Policing Lead

Address from the Minister of State for Police and Criminal Justice

The Rt Hon Damian Green MP was unable to attend the conference in person but in a recorded ministerial address, he thanked roads policing officers throughout the country for their dedication and commitment and for making our roads the safest in Europe.

Mr Green recognised that there is much to be done and the Home Office is working to improve technology for police and to improve efficiency.

There are half a million summary motoring cases heard every year, but it takes too long for low level traffic offences from offence to completion. This takes focus away from more serious offences - how can we improve, to deal with cases efficiently and justly? There will be dedicated traffic courts in 29 areas. The aim is to roll this out to all forces by April. Dedicated traffic courts will hear up to 100 cases in a single

session, leaving magistrate courts to deal with more serious criminal matters.

The DVLA data base will link with PNC, giving police officers access to information on a portable device, therefore digitising policing. 32 forces agreed to test and develop new capabilities.

Drink and drug driving is a serious threat to safety and it is vital that we do whatever we can to improve conviction rates. We are working to develop roadside testing devices, therefore reducing time and eliminating time lag on taking samples. This technology will be available later in the year.



The Rt Hon
Damian Green MP

Setting the scene

ACPO's Roads Policing Lead, Chief Constable Suzette Davenport, spoke of the issues faced over the past 12 months. Chief Constable Davenport expressed her gratitude for all the efforts made by so many to represent the passion and interest of roads policing.

In her address, Chief Constable Davenport said that the world is dominated by technology - 'professionals bring the art of policing, technology brings the science'. This is a powerful partnership and the future will bring some life-changing technological advancements. Developing intelligent in-car systems is a significant way forward. Ms Davenport spoke of the necessity to invest in technology in order to save in the long run. This led on to recognition of the continuing pressure on resources and reduced officer numbers.

In terms of national projects in dealing with serious criminal activity on the roads, this

continues to be of paramount importance. The latest 167,000 drink drive tests in December 2013 were the highest ever number of motorists checked.

With ever more scrutiny on the service, Ms Davenport was keen to make the point that policing is about far more than just reducing crime. Recognition was given to the day to day elements of roads policing which all too often go unnoticed.

Respect was paid to those who have sadly lost their lives on the road. We still have the safest roads in Europe and that is testimony to the dedication and professionalism of those policing our roads.



Chief Constable
Suzette Davenport

Partnership working

ABI and TPAC working together

Conference heard of a major development... a police officer involved in TPAC in line with duties need only inform insurance if this necessitates recording an accident as defined. There is no liability to disclose to insurance companies as long as tactics comply with APP.

Enforcement

1.3 million went through NDORS in 2013. Much good work is being done to get people to understand the risks they are taking.

S3 careless driving: 3000 tickets since August, so positive outcome.

Secretary of State for Transport

The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP started his address by thanking officers for the difficult job they do on the roads and highways. We have the best road safety records in the world and this is testimony to the good work done by officers throughout the country.

Roads policing is a tough job and the Minister gave recognition to that - from providing a presence, tackling vehicle crime, working at crash scenes and liaising with families when something has gone wrong.

Although we have the best road safety records, we cannot become complacent – the challenge lies on how we continue to improve. Utilising technology is fundamental.

Drug driving claims around 200 deaths per year and perpetrators are difficult to charge. Effective technology is essential for screening and effective legislation is necessary to convict. There is a new offence of drug driving; however consultation is ongoing on drug limits. The Minister expects regulation to be finalised in the summer this year.

The Minister announced £120,000 funding for station based screening devices, negating the need for the involvement of medical practitioners, thus saving time and money. Mobile screening devices will be available shortly, after the offence comes into force.

The Minister also announced the support of proactive marketing and awareness campaigns to tackle drink and drug driving. These hard hitting campaigns will focus on the impact of this high risk and unacceptable behaviour. The Minister also spoke of the need to educate drivers of the dangers of using their mobiles phones and texting whilst driving.

CLEAR technology is assisting with reducing the time involved in re-opening roads after major incidents but there is still work to be done. Better cooperation between agencies is encouraging but progress needs to be made on more effective working, leadership and resource sharing between police forces.

The Minister also emphasised that uninsured vehicles will not be tolerated. In 2005 there were 2 million uninsured drivers. This has now reduced to 1.2 million but there is still work to be done.

Government need to know where things can be improved and welcome feedback. Please email roadspolicing@polfed.org



Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP

Police numbers

This is a matter for the Home Secretary and the Minister will raise this with her.

Managed motorways

ALR - eased congestion on M62. The Minister stressed his commitment to reduce the risks to officers and will continue to work with the Federation on this.

Drivers with 40 points on licence

Minister appalled at some of the stories of motorists escaping bans. This will be addressed.

ACC Sean White – there should be zero tolerance on drug driving.

Professionalising Roads Policing

Annual Conference 2014

BIC, Bournemouth

Wednesday 21st May – lunchtime session



Policing the roads – the national context

HMCIC Tom Winsor addressed conference by saying that policing is far from a relatively simple occupation. Policing needs the highest integrity, credibility and skill.

Mr Winsor consulted extensively on policing challenges and successes over 2012-13 and lay before parliament his assessment regarding the efficiency of policing in England and Wales. Technology was raised as an issue by so many and this was the focus in his report to Parliament.

Exploiting technology is essential for best evidence in order to get justice - from scene to the screen. Video evidence is excellent for proving facts and is also cost effective. Mobile recording devices in public domain is so widespread. It is therefore essential that we embrace and not be frightened of technology.

Mr Winsor also congratulated roads policing officers for the work they do. Continuous investment is required, especially in technology as there are significant shortcomings in this area. As a result, there has been a 77% increase in the HMCIC budget to do inspections, which will be financed from the police and IPCC budget.

Police officers all too often have to deal with, in Mr Winsor's words, 'sometimes next to useless equipment'. Frontline officers deserve much better than having to deal with primitive technology.

The HMCIC will ask why technology is not being exploited to its greatest potential. Continuous

investment is critical. We must not wait to break or hit crisis before action is taken.

Mr Winsor spoke about crime without boundaries. However big a force may be, it has geographic neighbours, criminal cross borders. Police forces taking an isolationist view are not playing the game. There should be efficient and joint working at local and national level - operational boundaries of policing should be dissolved. Even though democratic and legal boundaries remain likely to continue in 43 forces into the foreseeable future, it is, Mr Winsor says, essential that boundaries are dissolved and forces work as if in a single area. Mr Winsor also spoke of the need for the police, prosecution and judiciary to work together as one whilst retaining independence.

Technology and training go hand in hand. Training needs to be enhanced. Conditions, capacity and maintenance of people require intensive and sophisticated nurturing and development. Investment in people needs to be strong, and seen as an investment not a cost.

Forces need to harness and develop the passion and energy that exists in the service. 'HMCIC need to shine a very bright and uncompromising light into the darkest corners of policing.'



HMCIC Tom Winsor

Dangerous driving

When questioned about pursuit driving, Tom Winsor said latitude and discretion should be allowed for taking those risks.



On average, roads policing officers deal with the trauma and consequences of *five deaths per day and twice as many serious injuries on our roads*

John Giblin, said: "These incidents have an unimaginable impact on close family members and friends of the victims, yet police officers are also badly affected by what they have to deal with. Road collisions require huge amounts of dedicated police time to investigate and support the victims. Road closures cause untold chaos and expense to the economy, yet it's never ever mentioned by Home Office Ministers as an important role in modern policing. Policing is not all about crime. It's also about dealing with tragedy and no more is that evidenced than by 2000 deaths on our roads each year."

Professionalising roads policing

Alex Marshall, CEO, College of Policing, addressed a packed room of delegates committed to raising skills levels. Mr Marshall was keen to point out that the onus is not solely on ACPO to lead in this area. Everyone has a role to play and is pivotal in the professionalisation process - the Police Federation, practitioners and unions all have a part to play.

In terms of technology, Mr Marshall agreed that the service is far too slow in getting practitioners equipped, too cautious, and conservative in developing technology. The College has the overall responsibility for setting standards for individuals and forces. Roads policing standards will be clear and consistent across all forces. This relies on having honest conversations about the standards that need to be set, the skills required and this must be put into economic context.

Mr Marshall also spoke of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and the need for members to obtain CPD qualifications to high standards year on year. Every serious learning institution is moving to online learning - Open University has mastered knowledge access online. We need to use this as a benchmark and develop e-learning in this style. Training and raising skills is not about classroom learning, but if Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard can do it by multi-media, we can do likewise. Essential in policing is the evidence based approach. What produces best results? What is the evidence for what we do? Professionals in policing are working with

academics to develop this.

Mr Marshall also spoke of the need to embrace partnership working as the police cannot be expected to solve every problem. Agencies in roads policing need to work collectively to determine what is needed to join things together to keep the roads safe.

In terms of ethics and integrity, it seems policing faces a continual onslaught of bad publicity. As a service, Mr Marshall said we need to collectively take responsibility for ethics and standards.

Closing his address to conference, Mr Marshall said that over the next few years as budgets are further restricted, Chief Constables will have to make more difficult decisions. Roads policing will inevitably not be without difficulties. Technology is not joined, but the world will be different going forward, with different ways of doing things at a lower cost. Whoever is employed in specialisms, need high skills levels, with proper CPD and this must be retained with the right training.

Mr Marshall praised the conference as an effective platform to look forward, grasp innovations and look for the best in order to set world-class standards. It is a difficult time and there is a lot to achieve but we can get there.



Alex Marshall
CEO College of Policing

Improvements in NCALT

The College is working on this to make it more user-friendly and bring it in line with University standards.

Police pursuits

Mr Marshall gave credit to those involved in the work being done around pursuits, saying the approach to this area is sensible and professional

43 variations

This is not acceptable and we all must work to common standards, through codes of practice with Chief Constables and PCCs.

Officer welfare

Officers deal with extremely stressful and traumatic road death injury cases. Mr Marshall stressed the importance of properly supporting officers.

Accreditation

Every police officer is a member of the professional body and the College will build the professional body database in due course. There are no plans for the next few years to charge. There will be a move to a chartered status in due course, but funding has to come from outside as government grants reduce.

Strategic road network solutions

ACC Sean White and Graham Johnson spoke to conference on technology innovation – working differently and better. A strong emphasis was on how officers respond to incidents on network CLEAR.

ACC Sean White asked for feedback on specific problems in order to assist and improve incident management.

All too often the responsibilities and leadership displayed by constables first on the scene go unnoticed. ACC White stressed the huge responsibility that constables have in very difficult circumstances. They require effective support in the form of better command and control, in addition to partnership working. There are some time delays with the CLEAR system and work needs to be done

to reduce these. At the moment, most incidents are dealt with within one hour. There is also more work to be done in cascading what CLEAR is about.

Promoting understanding and partnership working in managing serious incidents is crucial. There is ministerial support for improving the management of incidents which cause serious road closures (5 hours +). It's about how we get the right people, resources and assets to an incident in the most organised way.

Please email any feedback you have on this to roadspolicing@polfed.org



ACC Sean White

87,000 incidents per year involve closures of some description. 500 take over 5 hours. 6% but significant.

Pursuits

Andy Holt led a breakout session on pursuits.

A host of problems have been identified in this high risk arena, with different training standards, forces doing things differently in terms of pursuit authorisation and who can pursue and when. Consistency is essential when it comes to driver training.

Unfortunately the IPCC have no record of pursuits that have gone well. Only fatal or serious outcomes are put on record.

In terms of outsourcing - until clarification on law is established or S19 clarifies things then unwarranted officers will not be used in certain driver training roles.

Much more push needs to be made to get the message across in relation to setting common

standards and a consistent evaluation approach to considering cases of bad driving.

It has taken 5 years to get statutory codes of practice for pursuits. Therefore, trying to get any legislative change is not easy. We need to get our own house in order first and then look at legislation changes.

There are still too many examples where officers do their job well and yet face prosecution or face a court process.

A lot of work is being done by the Federation, in liaison with ACPO, in order to ensure officers are treated fairly and proportionately. However, there is still more to do and work in this critical area is ongoing.



Stop in South Yorkshire results in arrest and conviction of terrorist gang

Last year a roads policing officer on duty in South Yorkshire stopped a vehicle on the M1 using ANPR technology, which identified the vehicle as being uninsured. That stop resulted in the arrest of a number of highly dangerous men intent on causing serious harm to communities through terrorist activity and they were subsequently jailed for long prison terms.

Met DI's success on 'cash for crash'

A Met detective inspector who lead a team of officers targeting 'cash for crash' gangs and slashed the number of people killed or seriously injured on the road has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to roads policing. Det Insp David Hindmarsh received national recognition for his commitment to roads policing at the National Roads Policing Conference.

John Giblin, roads policing lead for the Police Federation, said: "Detective Inspector Hindmarsh is an incredibly worthy recipient of this award. His dedication and commitment to roads policing and

the police service as a whole is to be commended. His drive and ingenuity is truly inspirational. He has gone above and beyond and worked tirelessly to dramatically reduce road crime, injuries and deaths on the roads. DI Hindmarsh is a credit to the service."



DI David Hindmarsh

National award for South Wales team

Four South Wales police officers who bravely pursued a murder suspect were also recognised with an award at the National Roads Policing Conference.

Assistant Chief Constable Garry Forsyth from West Midlands Police presented the award to PC Gary Giles, PC Andrew Simmonds, Sgt Andy Stephens and PC Dean Haworth in recognition of their commitment and contribution to roads policing at the ceremony in Leicestershire.

John Giblin, roads policing lead for the Police Federation, said: "These officers exemplify the very best in British policing. Their determination, courage and professionalism to pursue this offender in the face of very real danger acts as an inspiration to us all. They put themselves in

harm's way to protect others and it is only right that their dedication to duty is recognised."



PC Gary Giles, PC Andrew Simmonds, PS Andy Stephens, PC Dean Haworth

SMART motorways and new technology

- Expectation is 43% traffic volume increase over next 20 years
- 2000 additional vehicles per hour
- Operational funding constraints
- Continued ambition to reduce casualties across network
- Smart looking for 33% increase in capacity
- Hard shoulder is the most unsafe position on a motorway
- 73% stops on hard shoulder are not an emergency
- All lane running could retain safety with verge mounted signs for driver information
- Smart = detection via signalling loops or radar to

- slow traffic to set speeds
- Enhanced carriage way clearance capability
- CCTV capability and coverage through 100% coverage VMS signs
- HATOs using new technology
- New traffic info web site and improved real time information
- Stopped vehicle detection system used to identify problems
- Pilot on M62 to assess operational capability of a stopped vehicle

We welcome your views on this and any ideas to develop and enhance this technology.

Roadside data access

ACC Garry Forsyth addressed conference on roadside data access.

The overall objective is to reduce time and improve efficiency by identifying an individual correctly at the roadside at the earliest opportunity.

The DVLA currently holds 34 million images of drivers and the police need access to that. However there are issues over data storage, transmission etc. and work is being done around this, not least to provide platforms for sharing this information. The

DVLA are doing excellent work on this and should be able to deliver this capability this year. The question is, will officers have the roadside technical equipment to receive this data? There are concerns that forces may not be able to provide suitable equipment for this. The RP User group will keep you informed on progress.



ACC Garry Forsyth

Brief update on professionalising roads policing

Much progress has been made since last year and consultation is ongoing with forces and stakeholders. Work is being undertaken to ascertain what's out there, what's required and where the gaps are in meeting future strategic objectives for the roads policing portfolio.

It is essential that police officers' career pathways are supported with relevant learning and development.

Key points to note

- Accessible modular national RP training programme
- National consistency to maintain and improve critical knowledge and expertise
- National minimum standards
- Losing key expertise has to be addressed
- Roads policing learning programme board now established
- RP training POLKA environment as a means of community engagement and involvement
- Ongoing monitoring and review of training requirements
- Overall aim is to protect individuals, the service, public satisfaction and confidence

Intelligent transport systems

- Technology being developed and used positively to target criminal activity
- Autonomous vehicles
- Remote diagnostics
- Constant connection to 3G/4G
- Remote immobilisation (thatchem category 5)
- Skype video conferencing
- Collision avoidance systems
- Car to infrastructure comms, enabling priority settings for emergency vehicles
- Self-driving vehicles - manufacturers experimenting with auto pilot

ANPR – the golden thread

- 8,000 cameras across England & Wales
- 26 million reg reads per day
- 17 billion data captures on file nationally
- Huge benefits by using available data and information
- Helps prevent and detect crime and deal with organised crime groups in real time
- Assists with road safety & casualty reduction
- RP officers can add value to populate the ANPR intelligence bank

£1400 raised for DLR (Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland) Air Ambulance

Thank you to all who kindly contributed to this very worthy cause during the Roads Policing Conference 2014

John Giblin, Roads Policing Lead, JCC: john.giblin@polfed.org

Region 1

Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside

Brian McGill:

xsgt@gmpfederation.com

Region 2

Cleveland, Durham, Humberside, Northumbria, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire

Mark Richardson:

mrichardson@cleveland.polfed.org

Region 3

Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Mercia, West Midlands

Tim Rogers:

tim.rogers@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Region 4

Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Suffolk

VACANT

Region 5

Bedfordshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Thames Valley

Chris Powling:

christopher.powling@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Region 6

Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire

Neil Chadburn:

neil.chadburn@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Region 7

Dyfed Powys, Gwent, North Wales, South Wales

Steve Oaten:

steveoaten@southwalespolicefederation.co.uk

Region 8

City of London, Metropolitan

Simon Hill:

simon.j.hill@met.police.uk

Reserve seat

Kirsty Shannon, Hampshire.

kirsty.shannon@hampshire.pnn.police.uk