



Cleveland Police Federation Media Release

10th August 2017

Recent IPT Remedy Hearing

The use of RIPA has, and will continue to be a contentious issue that will never stop being debated.

In January the tribunal ruling clearly outlined a shortfall of this force to correctly interpret legislation or adhere to strict codes of practise that exist to ensure the necessary and proportionate use of the power.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has outlined the work he has already initiated to audit every case involving the use of RIPA in the past six years to assure the public that these powers are used to contribute to their safety.

This is absolutely right but more than just assures the public, there is more to do to assure officers themselves.

Chief Officers and senior managers have let down our members and ultimately the public. Their knowledge and justification of not just poor practise, but blatant misuse of such a contentious practise raises significant concerns that officers and staff alike want addressed.

This won't happen overnight and they must do more than talk a good game, they need to deliver on promises made. Actions speak louder than words after all.

Over recent years we have regularly held the force to account over practices that need improving. This is a role we will continue to do through influencing and negotiating at the highest level.

We have been an integral part of the current review of practices within Professional Standards commissioned by PCC Barry Copping, asking the difficult questions many want to avoid and expecting answers.

We have also been part of a succession of training sessions helping to make certain that mistakes from the past can be part of Cleveland's history, not its future. We will continue to challenge PSD about the proportionality of their investigations and keep you, our members, up to date.

As a staff association we will continue to ensure all our members receive the relevant support needed through any on-going process.

Our local officials have and continue to perform a challenging role, often in their own time, and in spite of being subjects of malicious complaints by those who seek to undermine the role we perform.

It's important to reflect on the positives at a difficult and challenging time. At present we have the lowest number of officers suspended for some considerable time. Officers remain in the workplace while subject to proportionate and timely investigations. Huge steps have been taken in the right direction but there is still more work to do.

As the current chair of the Cleveland Police Federation I will be part of the process to recruit the new head of PSD which will commence in the near future.

I have met with all but one of our Local MP's and will continue to seek their support in backing our officers that deliver such a magnificent service to our communities.

In the same way you are driven to help others, we as a staff association are driven to help all of our members.

Andrea Breeze
JBB Chair
Cleveland Police Federation

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

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