

" PPP "

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

North Wales police officer says he would refuse lift again despite teen's death. Daily Post Apr. 28 2009 By Steve Bagnall

A POLICE officer who refused a drunken teenager with no shoes a lift has said he would make the same decision again even though that young man later froze to death.

Lee Sellers, 17, asked the officer, at the roundabout at the A550 in January 2004, to take him to his Lymegrove home in Buckley.

But Officer A, who was **giving evidence anonymously** at a Wrexham inquest on Tuesday, said there were rules and regulations about taking people in police vehicles.

Lee went missing that night and two weeks later his body was found in a disused coal bunker in Higher Kinnerton. He had frozen to death.

Asked by coroner John Gittins whether he would do the same again, Officer A replied "yes"

The PPP commentsUPDATE many of our readers have complained about our strong comments (below) on this issue and emphasise that the leadership and culture of North Wales Police has stifled initiative and led to officers failing to take any 'risks' and making the wrong decisions like this one!.

This is another case of gross corporate negligence by North Wales Police amounting to manslaughter. The Rules are immaterial in such circumstances. If the officer hadn't the nous or courage to make the right decision he should have asked for advice or called the young man's relations or friends or the ambulance. They are forever highlighting their high tech communication systems. The truth of the matter is that UNLIKE the other emergency services they don't see ALL the people as their customers. The deaths of the four cyclists on an icy road was another such incident as was the horrendous death by decapitation of a very dangerous motorcyclist and the crippling of the other driver. All avoidable by proper policing and all acts of gross negligence.

Why should a Police Officer be allowed to give evidence anonymously? and why did it take over 5 years for the inquest to be held and raise the whole issue again for the deceased's family? The question the Coroner in each case should have asked is what changes to standing orders have been made within NWPF to prevent a reoccurrence of such tragedies?. The Daily Post should be asking the same question of Senior Officers.