



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

North Wales Police fear for safety

Apr 15 2008 by Hywel Trewyn, Daily Post

NORTH Wales Police has come under fire from its own officers for not putting enough officers on to cover at times when trouble could be expected.

Cops' representatives raised fears for officers' safety on nights when drink-fuelled revellers were likely to pose a risk. The Police Federation also claimed staffing was cut on bank holidays in coastal towns – when they say it should have been increased in line with an influx of visitors. The organisation said the lack of flexibility in staffing levels was “not fair” on officers or the public - particularly on busy event days, and nights after big sporting events were shown in pubs.

The situation got so bad the Federation threatened to call in health and safety inspectors unless a risk assessment was carried out. Now a major review of the way staffing is organised is under way.

The Federation's health and safety leader Sergeant Mickey Roberts wrote about his “**increasing concerns**” in the organisation's last newsletter.

Highlighting that no risk assessments on staffing levels had so far been carried out by the force. He said: *“Staff have a right to return home having not suffered an injury or ill health (yes, this includes stress), as a result of their employment: that is the whole point of risk assessments and health and safety. It is no good stating, for instance, that the generic risk assessment says we needed six officers working last Saturday so we should be alright with six this Saturday – not much consolation for those six who are working if Wales are playing England on Saturday afternoon and everyone is the worse for wear with drink later that night. Probably a good example was the recent Ricky Hatton fight which many pubs screened live in the very early hours of Sunday morning”.*

“You don't have to be a genius to work out there would be an increase of work for the police. Somebody should have looked at the risk assessment and decided that there was a case for increased staffing.”

Assistant secretary of the **North Wales Police Federation Mel Jones** said last night that the warning had the desired effect – and an action plan was now being drawn up.

Mike Glenn, assistant manager of the Custom House pub, High Street, Connah's Quay, claimed: *“Around here, if we have a big fight on a Friday or Saturday night and we phone them it can take up to **18 minutes for a response.**”*

The PPP comments ... **we left out the force spokeswoman's comments as being irrelevant.** It is nice to see the federation actually mention the customers safety. This situation highlights the incompetence of the leadership and their blasé ignorance of the needs of REAL community policing across North Wales. We note that NWPFF officers up to the rank of **Chief Inspector** (front line managers in Industry) i.e, **92 officers**, are represented by the federation!, what were they ALL doing?, enjoying their cushy 9-5 jobs. Note the force **target** response time is **20 minutes**.