

# “ PPP ”

## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

### Police officer disciplined for encouraging officers to sign petition against road-toll....By LUCY BALLINGER - Daily Mail 19/02/07

PC Richard Eccles, secretary of North Wales Police Federation, was reprimanded for ordering the email be sent to other officers in the force. It encouraged them to visit the petition against the Government's pay-as-you-drive proposals on the official Downing Street website, which has already been signed by more than 1.5million men and women.

But after PC Eccles, who is also head of the Welsh Police Federation, sanctioned the sending of the email, he was called into a meeting with the force's assistant chief constable and the head of professional standards.

He is believed to be the first policeman to be disciplined for promoting the site, after it emerged earlier this week officers in another force had been warned not to sign the petition at work.

PC Eccles said: *"I had been sent the link to the Downing Street website, as I think most people had, and decided to send it on as I thought it would be a good source of information for police as it will affect their finances. I was out of the office but told a colleague to send it to people on our Police Federation mailing list on Friday February 9 and didn't think anything more of it."*

But when PC Eccles returned to work the following Monday he was told the head of professional standards at the force was investigating. He said: *"I was called to headquarters for a meeting with the assistant chief constable Ian Shannon and head of professional standards Chief Inspector Fraser Jones. They thought it was inappropriate for me to have sent it out because there was a political message and I was disciplined for it at a minor level. "They said it was critical of the government and therefore inappropriate for a police officer to send."*

*"If I had been supporting the legalisation of cannabis or something then I would expect to be pulled up on it, but this is a petition which is on a government website. It might have been because it mentioned speeding and that is something the force is known for being strict on."*

**A spokesman for North Wales Police said: "We never comment on internal disciplinary matters. The force does have a policy on personal use of computers and anyone who contravenes that may face disciplinary action." ... Why Don't blogs fall into this category!?**

**The PPP comments... If it wasn't so typical of this pathetic 'leadership' in NWPF it would be pythonesque. All the so called top team spend hours a week and use other resources to write their Blogs which are riddled with their own personal opinions both social and political. These views often appear to be distorted and abusive AND anti-Government. We should hold the PA member responsible for professional standards responsible for this over reaction and abuse of PC Eccles. He is Mr John Anderson OBE, DL, JP Caer Rhun Hall Conwy LL32 8HX, Phone: 01492 650012. What did it cost overall to drag PC Eccles into HQ for his 'telling off' ?**