

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Police 'target forms, not criminality'

Ben Leapman, Home Affairs Correspondent, **Sunday Telegraph 08/07/2007**

An award-winning police inspector has lambasted Government targets, paperwork and political correctness for undermining the war on crime. **Insp Mark Scoular** spoke out after returning to the Metropolitan Police Force following a five-year break. He **said: "I am horrified at the state of policing."** **Insp Scoular condemned target-setting** which has resulted in some officers being ordered to achieve particular numbers of **"sanction detections"**. Officers have privately told this newspaper that the targets encourage them to hunt low-level offenders who carry cannabis or urinate in public, instead of pursuing more serious criminals.

*Insp Scoular said: "We no longer target criminality, we target how many stop-and-account forms we get during a shift. **We no longer target drugs suppliers**, we target the hundreds of users." He said the policy "results **in even fewer police officers delivering frontline policing**", adding: "I fail to see how, with current key performance indicators, we are doing anything but **fudging the real picture. Officers spend more time doing paperwork than they do policing.**"*

On training, Insp Scoular, who is based at an inner-London police station, **said most new police officers "just do not know the job"** because **practical lessons have been replaced by politically correct themes such as diversity awareness**. *When I joined the force, I was taught about the law and how to apply it," he said. "Officers join my team . . . not knowing the definition of robbery. But they do know the ins and outs of Islam. While I agree they should have an appreciation and understanding of different faiths, I do not agree this should be at the expense of knowing how to do their job."* The officer complained that community support officers, *civilian patrol staff introduced by the former home secretary David Blunkett, "do little to assist me in frontline delivery" and "drain supervisory resources because of their lack of training and experience"*. In a letter published in Jane's Police Review, Insp Scoular **said the £3 billion Airwave police radio system was unreliable, while London's Metcall centre, which handles 999 calls, was unable to cope with demand.**

Police inspectors are senior employees who can command up to 20 constables on a shift. Insp Scoular launched the award-winning **Karrot Project, a police initiative to reward children from high-crime estates in Southwark, south London, with gifts and holidays for attending school and youth clubs. (PPP comment this should be preferably be rewards for POSITIVE performance and leadership of others!)**

Norman Brennan, of the Victims of Crime Trust, **said: "I fully support what Insp Scoular has said. He is expressing what many officers feel."**

Scotland Yard declined to respond to Insp Scoular's criticisms. However, another Met inspector, Ian Oakden, **said: "Our squads are focused in driving down core crime . . . I think it unfair for Mark to expect probationers joining his team to be the finished article . . . What is welcome is that they have demonstrated awareness of religious and cultural sensitivities."** For informed comment on this story go to ...

www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml;jsessionid=MAVFS5EYDGONTQFIQMGCF4AVCBQUIV0?xml=/news/exclusions/thinklocal/nosplit/crime1.xml

The PPP comment We have **highlighted the key Points** from Scoular, that all apply in North Wales, where the skewed priorities will now be indoctrinated into the **'police cadets' at 16 by the likes of DCC Wolfendale.**