



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

TASERS AND EXPLOSIVE CHARGES

Where are all our Police Officers?, playing with more boys' toys in Ruthin!

More stun guns for police. Daily Post Feb 28 2007 by Tom Bodden.

PLANS to kit out more cops in rural North Wales with stun guns were unveiled yesterday. The stun guns are due to be introduced in the summer to reduce critical response times to serious crimes. Chief Constable Richard Brunstrom wants to train some frontline officers to use the Taser electronic stun gun which is currently restricted to **specialist armed units**.

The force is also investigating the use of a **multiple-shot launcher for baton rounds**, so-called plastic bullets, as part of **an arsenal of "non-lethal weapons"** for use in emergencies. Other techniques under review include **"explosive entry"** where small charges are detonated to blow out a door or window to gain quick entry to a building.

North Wales Police were early users of the Taser, and were first to discharge the baton gun on the UK mainland. **Mr Brunstrom said** yesterday .. **North Wales had been pioneers in developing tactics for using explosive charges** to gain quick and safe entry to buildings.

The PPP comments.. and we thought it was the SAS who were the developers and experts! *The introduction of Taser has been a huge success," he said, "but it is still restricted to a handful of specialist officers also armed with real guns. **This is particularly relevant in rural areas like South Meirionnydd where calling for specialist back-up can take ages, and cause unacceptable risk to members of the public.**"*

Taser guns were first used by North Wales Police in June 2003 on a dog. They were fired at a man in August 2003 in Rhyl.

BUT below is a recent headline from the Post's sister paper, The Pioneer.....

North Wales 'one of the safest places' as top cop raps survey

North Wales' Deputy Chief Constable Clive Wolfendale **said North Wales was one of the safest places to live in Europe**, with incidents of reported crime below the UK and European average. He produced figures that showed North Wales had less incidents of burglary, theft from motor vehicles and robbery than the **best performing countries** in the survey.

The PPP comments...What a chaotic conflict of comment!... does the safest place in Europe and particularly South Merionnydd really need an Arsenal of lethal and non-lethal weapons and explosive devices?. The PPP are sure that, like the rest of North Wales, they need ... always available, friendly, visible, approachable & local Police officers to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour.

Regarding the European survey, Wolfendale insults our intelligence, of course North Wales falls below **whole European countries**. **Our Italian correspondent**, resident of a similar rural & coastal area in Southern Italy tells us there is virtually no crime or antisocial behaviour. **DUE primarily to a high profile and effective community police force!**

The European Crime and Safety Survey (EU ICS) www.europeansafetyobservatory.eu/

As a matter of interest ... The Meirionnydd district of the Western division has 14 wards but only one inspector, Meirion Ellis and FIVE Police Constables.