



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Police turn a blind eye to one third of all crime

Daily mail By Stephen Wright on 23rd November 2009

Police chose not to investigate more than 1.5million reported crimes last year, it emerged. Offences dismissed by officers included sex attacks, robberies, drug use, fraud as well as large numbers of burglaries and thefts. Around a third of all cases were deemed unsolvable hours after an allegation was made in a process known as 'screening out'.

Under the system, crimes are logged in official figures but no serious effort is made to investigate and victims are issued with reference numbers for insurance purposes.

The worst offender was the Metropolitan Police force, which screened out almost half of the crimes reported in the capital. Officers shelved 404,609 of the 844,938 cases they opened - 48 per cent.

Critics argue red tape at police stations is stopping the proper investigation of offences. Chris Grayling, the shadow home secretary, said: 'This is what happens when ministers create a bureaucratic system that leaves police officers sitting in stations filling out forms and not investigating crime.'

Among 18 English, Welsh and Scottish forces which operate official screening out policies, **697,000 offences went uninvestigated during the 2008/9** financial year, out of 2.2million reported crimes - a rate of 32 per cent.

A further 15 forces said they did not formally 'screen out' crimes, although some admitted that offences could be earmarked for no further action at an early stage.

The findings suggest that across the country last year, out of 5.2million crimes reported to police, around 1.7million went uninvestigated.

Forces revealed the figures days after Home Secretary Alan Johnson, expressed dissatisfaction with the failure of police not to visit all victims of minor crimes.

But senior policemen said 'screening out' allows them to target the most serious and solvable crimes. They insist that all offences are 'investigated' to some degree, even if this amounts only to a phone call.

Murder, wounding and rape are always investigated, as are cases where there is a named suspect or forensic evidence. Among the 18 forces which provided figures under the Freedom of Information Act, the worst offenders after the Met were Dorset, where the screening out rate was 46 per cent, Cambridgeshire, on 43 per cent, and Cleveland on 42 per cent.

Essex Police screened out only 3 per cent of reported crimes, while the figure in Leicestershire was 9 per cent.

In parts of the country, an average of 75 per cent of theft and handling offences were screened out. That figure was as high as 70 per cent for criminal damage and 55 per cent for burglary.

Douglas Paxton, spokesman on crime recording for the Association of Chief Police Officers, said: *'No crime goes uninvestigated. Screening out simply refers to the point at which an investigation is concluded.'*

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1230062/Police-turn-blind-eye-crime.html#ixzz0Xqt0vTEQ>

The PPP comments ... See the following article from 2007 on the exact same subject, nothing changes but just gets worse. Johnno Hills and his website are sadly inactive now ... but the PPP haven't given up!