
SPECIAL OPERATIONS & CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Version 4

1. Policy statement

In recent years we have seen a decline in valuable police units such as dogs, mounted police, air support, firearms and roads policing. These units have been the victim of cuts to the police budget, yet they play an invaluable role in protecting and reassuring the public.

2. Responsibility

The National Board is responsible for all policy formation.

3. Summary

PFEW believes that specialist units such as dogs, mounted police, air support, firearms and roads policing are vital parts of the policing armoury and play an important role in the prevention and detection of crime and in the protection of the public.

An analysis of national demand by the College of Policing has found an increasing amount of police time is focused on keeping the public safe. Units such as dogs, air support, firearms, roads policing, forensics or those involved in the prevention of cybercrime or child exploitation are crucial to the service's capability to respond to demand.

Due to reduced funding Chief Officers are having to make difficult decisions. Reductions in specialist units will mean that there will be an impact on the capability and capacity of the service to respond to demand. This will impact on the level of service provided to the public and will jeopardise the service's ability to keep people safe.

4. Procedures/implementation

PFEW will work with National Police Chiefs Council to discuss future staffing levels in specialist units to ensure that decisions are evidenced based.

PFEW will support members by engaging in consultation procedures with forces where changes to staffing levels and the relocation of officers are being proposed.

We will lobby the Government to show that the service cannot sustain any further cuts in budget or officer numbers without a significant impact on service delivery.

Responsibility is delegated to the National Secretary and/or the appropriate sub-committee.

	Author	Date	Date to be reviewed	Change
Version 1	EP-KP	May 2015	May 2016	
Version 2	KP-EP	May 2016	May 2017	No change
Version 3	KP-EP	May 2017	May 2018	No change
Version 4	KP	January 2019	May 2020	Minor changes

Signed by:



National Chair



National Secretary