



Welcome to the February e-bulletin from your national Federation.

Protect the Protectors: Being assaulted is not part of the job

A new national campaign to [Protect the Protectors](#) has been launched this week. Your local Federations across the country will be raising awareness to fight for legislative change, so that those who assault emergency service personnel get harsher punishments. We are also calling for better protective measures, such as Taser and body worn video, better welfare support and accurate recording of the volume of assaults happening. New data estimates that there is an assault of some kind every four minutes, and the hard-hitting campaign will demonstrate the affect this has on our members' health and wellbeing.

To help support the campaign, Halifax MP Holly Lynch introduced a Ten-Minute-Rule Bill in Parliament calling for a change in legislation to better protect all emergency service workers - get all the latest news via our [website](#) or follow the campaign on social media using #ProtectTheProtectors.

[If you are assaulted on duty](#), help us by reporting it to your force. Even if it seems like a small incident, being assaulted is not part of your job.

What does the Employment Tribunal ruling on judges' pensions mean for you?

Last month, a court ruled that [the government's transitional pension arrangements for judges amounts to unlawful age discrimination](#). Your General Secretary Andy Fittes said: "We still believe transitional protections offer the best pension provisions for as many of our members as possible. We are fighting to protect the interests of all members regarding their pension rights. It is outrageous the way two successive administrations have attacked the pensions of hard-working police officers.

"The judges' position is different in many respects from our position, and this ET decision is only binding on the judges. However, it remains to be seen whether - in fighting the one common element of schemes, the transitional protection - the litigants have opened the door to poorer pension provision across the public sector. We are monitoring the situation closely." [Read more about police pensions](#).

Annual Conference 2017: Get involved and have your say

We want your input - what do you want our message to government to be at this year's conference? And looking further ahead, what are the key issues that you would like us to focus on in the future? It is your conference - we welcome your views so we can get your message across. Please

email: questions4homeseecretary@polfed.org



POLICE magazine: here is a taste of what you will find in this month's issue

[In the new edition](#) - brave members share their experiences of being assaulted on duty while others reveal their struggles with mental health; a potential new national welfare programme; your national chair wants to hear what is important to you; the Home Secretary voices support for the 'licence to practice' concept; the editor asks, 'can't those in charge just sometimes grow a pair?'; and Inspector Gadget muses on change for the sake of change.



Taser: more members than ever want the option to carry it

In our latest national member survey, [82 per cent of responders said Taser should be issued to more frontline officers](#), up eight per cent since 2014. Those of you who took part in the survey want more availability of Taser for officers in roles within neighbourhood policing, roads policing and response. The results come a month after [a survey of the public showed that 71 per cent of responders considered it acceptable for police officers to carry Taser when on patrol](#).



Member welfare survey: officers feel over-stretched and under pressure

Our member welfare survey shows that [85 per cent of members who responded felt that their team do not have enough staff to manage demand](#). Seventy per cent felt that they do not have time to engage in proactive policing. We continue to raise awareness around the widespread issue of stress and poor psychological wellbeing among our members. Contact [your local Federation](#) for more information on the support currently available to you.



National crime stats highlight increasing demand on members

The Office for National Statistics' crime figures for the year ending September 2016 [continue to show a worrying increase in violent crimes](#), including a seven per cent increase in offences involving a firearm and an 11 per cent increase in offences involving a knife. Your national chair Steve White said: "A continuing increase in violent crime and continuing reduction in police officer numbers is far from a coincidence."



Pensions: what you need to know about auto-enrolment

Every three years all employers in the UK - including police forces - are obliged to re-enrol workers who have previously opted out back into their pension scheme. We would not encourage members to opt out of the police pension scheme without taking independent financial advice. You can [find out more about auto-enrolment here](#) or speak to [your local Federation](#).



Roads Policing Conference: Operation Dragoon take the top award

Northumbria's Sgt Phil Patterson accepted the award for Outstanding Contribution to Roads Policing on behalf of his team at last month's [Roads Policing Conference and Exhibition](#). Op Dragoon developed an intelligence grading system for serious road offenders and work to further protect road users through a specially developed programme of enforcement, engagement and education.

We are aware that **some email clients block the hyperlinks in this newsletter**. If you are having problems accessing any of the links embedded in this email, please try copying the full address below and pasting it into your browser:

Protect the Protectors campaign: <http://polfed.org/campaigning/3635.aspx>

Police Federation website: <http://polfed.org/default.aspx>

If you are assaulted on duty: <http://polfed.org/campaigning/4015.aspx>

Judges' pension case ruling: <http://polfed.org/newsroom/3920.aspx>

More pensions information: <http://polfed.org/fedatwork/Pensions.aspx>

Read POLICE magazine: <http://polfed.org/mag/default.aspx>

Member Taser survey results: <http://polfed.org/newsroom/3981.aspx>

Further findings from the members welfare survey: http://www.polfed.org/fedatwork/Welfare_survey.aspx

Contact your local Federation: <http://polfed.org/aboutus/contactus.aspx>

Crime stats highlight increasing demand: <http://polfed.org/newsroom/3929.aspx>

Pension auto-enrolment: <http://polfed.org/fedatwork/3923.aspx>

Roads Policing Conference: http://polfed.org/events/roads_policing_conference.aspx

Police Federation of England & Wales

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