

Monday 9 February

#truepicture day

..a snapshot of the things crime stats don't capture

There is no doubt that the drastic cuts in force budgets are putting you under severe pressure and impacting on the ability of the service to protect the public.

We hear that crime is falling but this only measures a snapshot of police activity. What we do not hear about is the extreme pressure the cuts are placing on your ability to work in your communities and the valuable things that you do which are being lost.

We want to show the #truepicture of #policing and highlight a typical day in policing, crime or non-crime, emphasising that policing is not just about crime stats but reassurance, patrol, crime prevention, community. It's about protecting the public, finding missing people, offering advice and so much more.

We are asking officers to get involved in the following ways – but only if you get the opportunity and only if it makes sense to do so. It's not compulsory of course, but any support is welcome.

Many forces have designated officers who tweet from official accounts and ideally this is who we would like to hear from, but not if it is in breach of any local policy. We are also not asking officers to tweet from personal accounts during their shift, as we know many of you are not permitted to use social media while working.

However, officers who want to tweet or re-tweet from personal accounts could perhaps do this if they have time at the end of their shift, tweeting a brief summary of the day. For example;

- Dealt with missing person today #policing #truepicture
- Spent 2 hours talking to pupils on crime prevention #truepicture
- Spent 5 hours in A&E with offender needing medical attention #truepicture
- Prisoner escort #policing #truepicture
- Helped reassure a victim of crime #truepicture

Again – it will depend on how you use your own personal accounts as to whether you would feel able to do this.

In either case we are not asking for any specifics in terms of operational / sensitive information that would compromise you, anyone else or an incident and there is no obligation to participate – if you are not sure about force policy or generally feel uneasy about taking part, please remember it is your choice to do so or not.

We will be using the following hashtags:

#policing

#truepicture

Thank you