

FRONT LINE

The magazine of Nottinghamshire Police Federation SUMMER 2024



Brave officer honoured at national awards ceremony

- see Pages 4 and 5



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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

By Simon Riley, chair of Nottinghamshire Police Federation



It has certainly been an interesting few months. Since our last magazine came in early May, we have seen the former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak call a snap General Election, Federation members voting for a campaign calling for access to collective bargaining and binding arbitration in their pay review processes and a Labour landslide at the polls.

But first I want to draw attention to the Police Bravery Awards. Organised annually by the Police Federation of England and Wales, the awards act not just a showcase for all the brave acts carried out by police officers nationwide daily, but also as a demonstration of why policing really is a profession like no other.

Each and every one of the nominees – and you can read about our nominee on Pages 4 and 5 – deserved recognition at the awards, but for each officer put forward for the awards, I am sure the Federation

branches involved could have found several others who had put their lives on the line to protect others. All would also say that they were just doing their job, the role they signed up for.

Sadly, there are occasions when in carrying out that role, a police officer pays the ultimate price such as our own Graham Saville who tragically lost his life in August last year.

Graham was named in the roll of honour at this year's Care of Police Survivors (COPS) Service of Remembrance memorial, as one of four police officers to have lost his life in the 12 months since the charity's previous service.

The COPS service, which you can read about on Pages 6 and 7, features inputs from the families of fallen officers who talk movingly about the loved one they lost, the impact it had on them but also the critical support offered by those at COPS.

If you get the chance to attend the service, held at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire, I would highly recommend you do, not least because the arboretum is a great place to visit and is home to the National Police Memorial which was unveiled a few years ago.

Equally, if you want to support COPS, perhaps consider joining the East Midlands Chapter of the Police Unity Tour next year. I believe the East Midlands Chapter had the most riders this year – 71 – and that the team organiser has plans to make it bigger next year.

This year, our branch secretary Tom Hill joined the team, afterwards explaining that completing the two-day tour, covering around 160 miles, was challenging, but nothing like what the families of fallen

officers had to go through.

Having attended the Bravery Awards in early July and the COPS service at the end of the month, it somehow made the bitter pill we had to swallow when our pay award was announced – literally a day after the memorial event – a little harder to swallow.

To take the positives, the Police Remuneration Review Body (PRRB) recommended a pay rise of 4.75 per cent (see Page 9 for more details) across all ranks from 1 September 2024.

And that same day, the new Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, came out to say the Government would accept the recommendations in full. Again this is a positive.

But, earlier in the day, it was announced that junior doctors had been offered a pay rise amounting to 22 per cent, spread over two years.

I don't want to pitch public sector worker against each other. But perhaps it's worth noting that junior doctors have taken industrial action 11 times since March 2023.

This action prompted the new health secretary to announce almost as soon as he was appointed that he would sit down and talk to the doctors and discuss their pay claim.

No wonder our members voted overwhelmingly in favour of calling on the Police Federation of England and Wales to launch a campaign for industrial rights.

Not only do we have restrictions placed on our lives, including being banned from joining a union or taking industrial action, but we also have no access to any kind of negotiation in our pay review process nor binding arbitration.

How is that fair?

“ If you get the chance to attend the COPS service, I would highly recommend you do, because the arboretum is a great place to visit and is home to the National Police Memorial.

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'PROUD' DOG HANDLER HONOURED AT BRAVERY AWARDS



Photos courtesy of Anderson Photography

Dog handler Chris Duffy represented the Force at the national Police Bravery Awards where he was honoured alongside other heroic officers from across England and Wales.

PC Chris was nominated for the Region 4 Bravery Award, alongside Police Dog Reno for showing tremendous courage when he was attacked on shift in the early hours of 11 March last year.

Chris was struck with a weapon after attempting to arrest his attacker's brother, which left him with a seven-inch, skull-exposing wound. He was then subjected to a sustained assault on the ground but managed to fight back, prompting the attacker to flee the scene.

When Chris got back to his feet, he helped his colleagues locate and subsequently arrest the criminal.

Nottinghamshire Police Federation chair Simon Riley, who attended this year's awards ceremony in London, alongside Chris and Chief Constable Kate Meynell, has praised the dedicated PC.

"The bravery awards enable people like Chris to be formally recognised in style, which I think is so important to do. It was a lovely evening and served as a reminder to police officers that their work does not go unnoticed," Simon said.

"The level of bravery Chris displayed that night last March was outstanding. He was on the receiving end of a horrific attack but remained determined to complete the task at hand, and a violent and dangerous individual was arrested. He has made Nottinghamshire proud, and I am glad he had such a brilliant time at the awards."

The Region 4 category was won by an officer from Lincolnshire, who attempted to save a nine-year-old girl's life after she had been stabbed. Region 4 is made up eight forces including Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire.

The day, which was just a week after the General Election, started with an exclusive reception for all nominees hosted by Home Secretary Yvette Cooper and policing minister Dame Diana Johnson DBE.

Dog handler Chris Duffy outside No 10 Downing Street.



Bravery Awards nominees enjoy an exclusive Downing Street reception ahead of the ceremony.



Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

The reception was the first official event hosted by the members of the new Government at Downing Street.

Chris, who attended with his fiancée, described the morning as ‘amazing’, adding that it gave him a ‘small glimpse’ into life inside Number 10.

“You could feel so much pride in the room,” he said. “We were outside in the garden, the sun was shining, it just felt amazing. Words don’t do it justice.

“I’m so grateful to the Police Federation for giving us such a fantastic opportunity.”

The evening awards ceremony, the 29th of its kind, was opened with a welcome from Tiff Lynch, acting national chair of the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW).

“Tonight, we will hear extraordinary stories of bravery. Officers who will say, ‘it’s just part of the job’, but it’s not just part of the job – it’s going above and beyond the requirements of the job, and tonight we get the chance to recognise and thank those officers,” said Tiff.

Acknowledging that it was her 14th bravery awards ceremony, Ms Cooper said: “The reason I’ve attended so many Police Bravery Awards is because I think it’s so important to respect and recognise the work you do.

“And because the stories are always so inspirational, often so difficult, the incredibly difficult situations you have faced. The extreme violence that you will have had to work towards, the dangerous rescues that so

“To you and all your colleagues, for what you do to keep the public safe, thank you. I was struck by the impressive people you are. A phrase that stuck out for me is ‘forever going into the unknown’.

many of you have undertaken.”

Later on, Dame Diana delivered her own speech: “To you and all your colleagues, for what you do to keep the public safe, thank you. I was struck by the impressive people you are.

“A phrase that stuck out for me is ‘forever going into the unknown’.

“Your families must be so proud of you. I am so proud of you. To those here tonight, be proud of what you do. It could not matter more.”

Hosting the awards ceremony itself was TV presenter Mark Durden-Smith. Other attendees included Strictly Come Dancing star Kai Widdrington.

The annual event is organised by PFEW and is sponsored by Police Mutual.



GRAHAM IS REMEMBERED AT COPS SERVICE

Sergeant Graham Saville was among the fallen officers remembered at the annual Care of Police Survivors (COPS) Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

Graham, 46, died on 29 August 2023. A response officer based at Newark Police Station, he sustained serious injuries when he was hit by a train as he tried to save a distressed man in Balderton five days earlier.

His name was read out by the COPS president Gill Marshall as part of the roll of honour for those officers who had died since the charity's 2023 remembrance service.

Other officers listed were:

Sergeant Paul Frear of West Midlands Police who died on 22 September 2023

PC Jack Cummings of West Yorkshire Police who died on 19 May 2024, and

Acting Sergeant Reece Buckenham of Hertfordshire Constabulary who died on 29 June 2024.

The roll of honour, which was followed by a minute's silence, also included British Transport Police Property Officer Mark Birch who died on 12 October 2020.

"The COPS service of remembrance is one of the key events of the policing year and had added poignancy this year for our Force as we approach the first anniversary of Graham's tragic death," says Simon Riley, chair of Nottinghamshire Police Federation, who represented the branch at the service.

"We also kept our Nottinghamshire colleagues PCs Ashleigh Metcalf and Scott Redgate who we also last year in our thoughts.

"It is incredibly important that we honour our fallen colleagues and that we show their families that they remain part of our policing family.

"The COPS charity provides vital support to those families who are left behind when a police officer dies on duty.

"While acknowledging that they are all members of a club that no one wants to join, existing members welcome the newly bereaved and comfort and guide them by showing that, with peer support, they can rebuild their shattered lives."



Nottinghamshire Police Federation chair Simon Riley with Nottinghamshire Chief Constable Kate Meynell.

Gill Marshall welcomed members of the congregation to the remembrance service which featured music from the West Midlands Police Brass Band and the band's vocalist Superintendent Sam Batey.

A police widow herself, Gill recalled her daughters were just two and four when her husband, Alan, died and explained that she knew first-hand the value of COPS.

Sarah Doyle, whose husband,

Merseyside PC Neil Doyle, died 10 years ago, recalled how the couple had only been married a short time when he lost his life after being assaulted while off duty. She said she immediately knew life would never be the same again, admitting that part of her heart had died with him.

While it had taken her a few years to get involved with COPS, she spoke movingly of how the friendship of other police widows

had helped her and urged police survivors to seek the charity's support.

"You will never look back. They help you to rebuild your shattered life," she said.

Friday would have been the couple's 10th wedding anniversary and Sarah had decided to mark the poignant date by joining the PUT.

Charlotte Kellaway, daughter of DI Ian Kellaway who died of Covid in April 2020 having contracted the virus while on duty, shared her story of grieving for her father and also praised the way in which COPS had helped.

The final reading was by Greg Briggs, brother of Merseyside PC Paul Briggs, who died in 2017. He talked about his brother's life of service, first to the Army and then to policing and welcomed the unwavering dedication of COPS to look after police survivors, saying he would be forever grateful to the charity.

“It is incredibly important that we honour our fallen colleagues and that we show their families that they remain part of our policing family. The COPS charity provides vital support to those families who are left behind when a police officer dies on duty.”

During the service, which was held at the end of July, wreaths were laid by for the Office of the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, the High Sheriff's Office, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, the National Police Chiefs' Council, the College of Policing, the Blue Knights, the Police Unity Tour, the National Memorial Arboretum and COPS.

Sir Peter Fahy, chair of COPS, closed the service, acknowledging that every year police officers will lose their lives on duty.

"COPS is there to support their families, not just in the immediate aftermath but in the years and years ahead," said Sir Peter.

After the service, families and other guests made their way to The Beat, an avenue of trees dedicated to individual forces and officers to lay wreaths and single red roses.

FEDERATION SECRETARY REFLECTS ON 'EMOTIONAL' POLICE UNITY TOUR



Nottinghamshire Police Unity Tour team at their Tamworth stop.

The challenge posed by the 180-mile Police Unity Tour (PUT) is nothing compared to those faced by the families of fallen officers, says the secretary of Nottinghamshire Police Federation Tom Hill.

Tom took part in the PUT for the first time this year, joining Chief Constable Kate Meynell, and 26 other riders representing the county.

Riders from forces across England and Wales set off from their home force areas on Friday and rode first to Drayton Manor in Staffordshire on Saturday to be greeted by the families of fallen officers.

They then cycled to the arboretum on Sunday morning, led by the Blue Knights, the world's largest law enforcement motorcycle club, for the last leg of their journey ahead of the service of remembrance.

Crowds lined their route through the arboretum, applauding and thanking them for their efforts in raising money for COPS and raising awareness of fallen officers.

"When you finish the ride and you see everyone at the National Memorial Arboretum it's really emotional," he said.

"You have survivors coming up to you and thanking you for doing it, that it means so much to them, and that brings it all home to you – it's emotional.

"They were really grateful for us for doing it and really appreciated the efforts."

"Sitting on a saddle for a couple of days is nothing compared to the pain survivors, families and loved ones felt and continue to feel, and it puts it all into perspective."

They were joined in the East Midlands Chapter by colleagues from Derbyshire,

Leicestershire and, for the first time, Lincolnshire.

Among the 71 riders in the East Midlands Chapter were Leicestershire and Lincolnshire Chief Constables Rob Nixon and Paul Gibson.

The Nottinghamshire ride started at Force Headquarters on Friday morning and headed to Newark.

After 46 miles, it returned to HQ to meet the three other East Midlands forces for lunch and a memorial service at which CC Meynell laid a wreath on behalf of the Force and branch chair Simon Riley laid one on behalf of the Federation.

Tom said: "Riding into the stations and being welcomed was one of the highlights. And we had a really good turn-out for the send-off at our headquarters on the Friday."

Each rider cycles in memory of an officer. They are given a metal wrist band with the officer's name on it, date of birth, the force they were from and the date on which they died.

"It was a really good event," said Tom. "And the weather was kind to us. The COPS charity is fantastic and does amazing work for survivors and their families."

"The families describe it as a club that nobody wants to be part of, but if the worst thing imaginable does ever happen, you know there are people who have been through the same experience and are there to help you along the journey."

To date, the East Midlands Chapter has raised just shy of £30,000, exceeding the initial target of £28,000, via [JustGiving](#).

HOME SECRETARY PLEDGES TO RESTORE RESPECT FOR POLICE

Police officers are ‘ordinary people doing an extraordinary job’, says Nottinghamshire Police Federation chair Simon Riley as he welcomed calls to restore respect in policing.

Simon said there was a lack of real deterrents to attacks on police officers, describing it as one of the main reasons respect for officers had fallen.

He said the prison sentences being handed down to criminals involved in the violent disorder of the past two weeks should become the norm to serve as a deterrent.

“One of the main reasons for the loss of respect for police has been the lack of a real deterrent to assault on police officers,” he said.

“In recent days we have seen significant custodial sentences handed down to criminals who have been engaged in public disorder, including the assault of dozens of my colleagues across the country.

“I absolutely welcome these sentences, however, they should be the norm and not the exception.

“This is something the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) has campaigned tirelessly on, and will continue to do so.

“An attack on police is an attack on society and should receive the toughest possible punishment.”

Simon said that since the outbreak of disorder in the UK, 191 police officers have been assaulted, with 100 injured, and 66 of those needing hospital treatment.

“This is the direct product of a lack of respect for the police and has no place in a civilised society,” he continued.

Simon’s comments come as Home Secretary Yvette Cooper pledged to restore the public’s faith in the law following the violent disorder of the past two weeks.

Ms Cooper said that the recent violent disorder showed a loss of respect for the police and that too many people ‘feel as though crime has no consequences’.

She said: “I am glad not just that we have seen hundreds of thugs facing the consequences of their actions in recent days,



Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

but that the deterrent effect of punishment has now been witnessed this weekend as the police, government and criminal justice system responded at speed. We said criminals would pay the price, and we meant it. That is the rule of law in practice.”

Simon welcomed Ms Cooper’s comments.

He said: “Police officers are ordinary people doing an extraordinary job, something which governments have systematically failed to recognise over several years.

“It’s a good start for the home secretary to acknowledge what we, the police, have been saying for a long time.

“An attack on police is an attack on society and should receive the toughest possible punishment.”

“This situation has to change and we’ll be looking to the home secretary and the government to set about improving things to the point where the police are, once more, rightfully respected as the dedicated public servants that we are.”

Ms Cooper, writing in the Telegraph, described the recent violence as ‘a disgraceful assault on the rule of law itself’.

“I am not prepared to tolerate the brazen abuse and contempt which a minority have felt able to show towards our men and women in uniform, or the disrespect for law and order that has been allowed to grow in recent years,” she said.

“As well as punishing those responsible for the last fortnight’s violent disorder, we must take action to restore respect for the police, and respect for the law. From anti-social behaviour through to serious violence, too often people feel as though crime has no consequences, as charge rates have been allowed to fall and court delays have grown. That has to change.

“We will work with the police, rather than just blaming them from afar, to tackle problems and raise standards. And we won’t engage in the kind of shameful behaviour we have seen from some senior politicians and pundits who sought to undermine the legitimacy and authority of the police, just at the time they needed our full backing to restore order to the streets.

“When the police put on those uniforms, when they go out in the service of our communities, and when they uphold the high standards we expect of them, they deserve respect from every single one of us.”

PAY AWARD: 4.75% IS A 'GOOD START'

Nottinghamshire Police Federation has welcomed the new Government's 4.75 per cent pay uplift for all ranks while noting that more needs to be done to undo years of 'damaging below-inflation rises'.

Branch chair Simon Riley described the award as a 'good start', but insisted the Federation will continue the fight until officers receive the fair settlement they are owed.

He said: "The announcement that the Government has accepted the Police Remuneration Review Body (PRRB) recommendation in full, and that officer pay for 2024/25 will increase by 4.75 per cent - on top of last year's rise - is welcomed."

"However, we know that our members have suffered a 17 per cent real-terms pay cut since 2010 and there is still some way to go for police pay to get back to where it needs to be. It is deeply disappointing that the PRRB recommended increase was below that offered to millions of other public sector workers and below the recommendation of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).

"This is about what is fair for our members, who are seeking no more than fair pay for the extraordinary work they do. While we don't believe that one group of public sector workers should be set against another, the PRRB recommendation shows that they do not understand policing and its needs.

"The existing police pay mechanism is broken. It does not allow for negotiation, only the imposition of a fixed pay award."

Simon pointed out that junior doctors are being offered a 22 per cent uplift, having exercised their prerogative to go on strike – an option which is denied police officers by law.

"Until and unless police pay keeps pace with inflation, demands for increased industrial rights for police officers will not go away. The Federation will continue to fight for a pay mechanism that recognises the role that police officers perform in society and the risks they take," he continued.

PRRB's recommended increase was below that offered to other professions and ignored calls from the NPCC for officers to receive a six per cent increase.

The Federation has withdrawn from the pay review body mechanism, as it does not allow for negotiation.

Simon ended: "It is also important that this pay award, which is effective from 1 September, is funded by new money so that police chiefs aren't forced to fund it through cuts to other essential services."

Other announcements include:

- **The on-call allowance will be increased from £20 to £25**
- **The dog handlers' allowance should be uprated by 4.75 per cent and the additional rate for officers with more than one dog be raised from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of the rate for the first dog**
- **The PRRB recommended that the chief officer of police in each force should be given the discretion to set the starting salary for new constables at either pay point 1 or pay point 2 on the constables' pay scale. This recommendation has been accepted, but implementation will be subject to detailed proposals from the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) on the circumstances in which this discretion should be used, along with transition arrangements for those constables on pay point 1, to inform amendments to the Police Regulations 2003**
- **The annual leave entitlements for officers in the Federated ranks and recommended the time it takes to reach the maximum entitlement of 30 days should be reduced from 20 to 10 years, with effect from 1 April 2025 and phased in over three years. This recommendation was accepted, subject to the submission of a satisfactory Equality Impact Assessment by the NPCC to the Home Office**
- **The annual leave entitlement for new entrants will be increased from 22 to 25 days, with implementation taking effect on 1 April 2025**
- **The Home Office will provide £175m additional funding in 2024-25 to forces to help with the cost of the pay increase.**

FEDERATION TO CAMPAIGN FOR INDUSTRIAL RIGHTS

Frustrated officers fed up of what they see as an unfair pay review process have given their backing to the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) pursuing industrial rights on their behalf.

This will involve campaigning for a fair process of collective bargaining and binding arbitration within the Government's police pay review mechanism.

In all, 97.7 per cent of those who took part in the Police Federation's nationwide poll of members voted in favour of campaigning for industrial rights.

"This shows the strength of feeling among our members," says Simon Riley, chair of Nottinghamshire Police Federation. "They are fed up that the current pay review process through the Police Remuneration Review Body (PRRB) is weighted in the Government's favour.

"PRRB is given its remit by the Government which can, for example, set a limit on the size of any pay award, regardless of the evidence presented. Then, giving even more power to the Government, it can also ignore any recommendations PRRB makes.

"This is totally unfair and, to add further salt to the wound, unlike other groups of workers, police officers have no right to strike or to take any form of industrial action.

"Historically, this was part of the deal between the police and the government of the day. Police officers accepted a whole host of restrictions placed upon them but, in return, government committed to giving them a fair deal on pay.

"Sadly, that no longer seems to be the case. When PRRB was set up in 2014 it replaced the previous pay review mechanism – the Police Negotiating Board – which did give officers the right to independent arbitration and, unfortunately, we have seen our pay fall in real terms ever since.

"We have withdrawn from the [PRRB process](#) and strongly believe that this body should now be replaced with an independent body."

The Police Federation poll on industrial rights took place from 3 to 21 June this year – prior to the Government's recent pay rise announcement – and attracted 50,103 responses.

The Federation's National Council and National Board will now start to create the campaign for the introduction of a fair and binding pay mechanism.

YOUNG CADETS LEARN ABOUT IMPACT OF KNIFE CRIME

The impact of knife crime, first aid and how to carry out an investigation are just some of the subjects young cadets learn about with Nottinghamshire Police.

PC Shaun White has spoken about the programme and how it can help inspire the next generation of police officers.

“We introduce them to all different policing subjects over the year,” said Nottinghamshire Police Federation member Shaun. “It’s a varied programme and the cadets get loads out of it.”

The junior volunteer police cadets programme is for secondary school age children between Year 7 and 11. The programme is run in Bestwood, Mansfield, Bulwell, Force headquarters, and a new base in Hyson Green, which was officially opened in February.

Senior cadet sessions are available to those in Year 12 and 13 and are based at Force HQ.

Shaun is the principal leader for Bestwood junior cadets and recently, he organised a crime month, focussing on burglary.

He recently organised a crime month, during which the cadets under his instruction looked at a burglary.

“They get to see the report coming in from the victim and then they have to speak to the victim,” he explained.

“They’ll start an investigation and trawl through evidence, see what’s relevant and then get to do an arrest, book them into custody, and get to interview them. So they follow the whole investigation.

“We then discuss the criminal justice system and what punishment they think someone would get for the offence.”

The cadets get to understand other areas of the Force as well, such as community policing.

Shaun said: “We do a project which requires them to engage with the community and talk to them about the issues.

“Then we take our research to the local neighbourhood sergeant and they come up



PC Shaun White supporting local police cadets.

with ideas to tackle whatever the issue might be.

“They’re learning through doing and taking an active role in the community.”

Shaun delivers the first aid sessions to all five cadet bases, and used the recent Operation Sceptre week of action – which gives the Force a chance to showcase some of its work around knife crime – to look at how to give first aid to stabbing victims.

They looked at how to pack a wound, how a tourniquet can stem blood flow, and different aspects of a first aid kit such as wound dressings and burn gels.

Shaun said: “We wanted to use Op Sceptre for the cadets to learn about knife crime and to learn practical skills they can use in an emergency.”

The programme in Nottinghamshire is proving hugely popular with a waiting list of around 190 people at the start of this academic year.

Shaun, who was awarded Cadet Leader of the Year at a ceremony earlier this year dedicated to the Force’s [volunteer cadet leaders and police support](#)

[volunteers](#), said a number of factors could be driving the interest.

“Perhaps it’s popular culture because everyone has seen TV programmes such as Police Interceptors,” he said. “But we go to community events to show what we do and to talk to people.

“And I think a lot of people when they’re young want to be a police officer and we give that opportunity to those young people to experience some of it.

“We show them what happens behind the scenes, and I think that possibly encourages people.”

And some of the cadets do go on to roles within the Force.

“We’ve got one lad who has applied to be a Special,” Shaun said. “He’s at university and getting some experience working in a shop.

“He can do the four hours volunteering a week or more, get experience, and then he can apply for one of the entry programmes a bit later on.

“Around 10 of the seniors are looking to go into police officer roles in the future, or police staff roles.

“A lot follow it through to go into the policing world, such as forensics, rather than just being police officers,” he added.

Find out more about [Nottinghamshire Police’s cadets programme](#).

“I think a lot of people when they’re young want to be a police officer and we give that opportunity to those young people to experience some of it.”

PRIDE AT TEAM WIN



Sergeant Rachel Dowsett (fourth from right) with her team at the Chief Constable's Commendations.

A Nottinghamshire Police Federation member who led an exceptional police response to Storm Babet last year says she is 'very proud' after her team won commendation awards.

Sergeant Rachel Dowsett, along with PCs Luke Bayliss, Andy Carter, Louise McClue, Mitchell Lewis, Graham Thompson, Sophie Patterson-Lees, Nicola Garrow, Matthew Head, Ami Minto and Rory Simpson, were recognised at the Chief Constable's Commendations ceremony held at Nottinghamshire Police Headquarters in June.

The group worked as a unit to keep the public safe amid treacherous conditions in communities across the county, such as in Worksop and Gainsborough. Their efforts included the evacuation of more than 500 residents in Retford when houses were

seriously flooded by the storm last October.

Rachel said: "When the floodwater burst the banks of the River Idle and cut off people's homes, it became a major incident. Over a couple of shifts, we liaised with the fire service to assess which areas were the most critical.

"In Retford, the water had got up to waist level – it was already too far gone for measures like sandbags, so we had to operate emergency protocol."

Despite this, the team acted decisively and courageously while retaining a level of compassion for vulnerable residents in particular.

"The logistics were complicated at times, but that didn't stop us. For example, there was a man with limited mobility in a bungalow at the end of a street, and he was completely cut off. Members of the team

waded through the water to reach him and bring him to safety," Rachel added.

The 38-year-old also reserved specific praise for Luke, who she says displayed tremendous responsibility during the rescues.

Luke revealed he was not only delighted to receive the award but also to be acknowledged by his sergeant.

"It's really nice to be recognised for what I did. I just knew it was about being there for the public in a distressing time," he said.

"Overall, however, it was definitely a team effort. We were up against it in terms of how many officers were on shift versus how vast the flooded areas were.

"We had to tackle some extreme circumstances and they were like nothing we had seen before, to be honest. In certain parts, I remember the floodwater rising by about a foot in less than an hour. We really had to come together as one."

This sentiment was echoed by Rachel, who ended by reiterating how impressed she was by the collective response: "I feel very privileged for myself and my colleagues to receive this commendation. I am so proud of my team – they really did go above and beyond, as good police officers do."

“I feel very privileged for myself and my colleagues to receive this commendation. I am so proud of my team – they really did go above and beyond, as good police officers do.”



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FIRST-CLASS PRIVATE HEALTHCARE FOR MEMBERS



Nottinghamshire Police Federation has partnered with the National Police Healthcare Scheme to offer members the benefits of private healthcare for as little as £16 per month*.

The National Police Healthcare Scheme aims to cover the costs of hospitalisation and specialist medical fees, for treatment for acute medical conditions, both as an inpatient and outpatient.

It also covers the cost of outpatient physiotherapy, osteopathy, chiropractic and acupuncture treatment up to £400 per course.

Subscription costs start at just £16 per month (for officers aged 18 to 29) and membership of the scheme can be extended to a member's spouse or partner, family and children.

Police officers who sign up get the first three months free and the first year is free for student officers.

Benefits include:

- **Self-funded scheme set up by a trust deed**
- **Pays private expenses for treatment designed to cure or alleviate acute medical conditions or ailments***
- **Hospital charges, specialist fees, X-rays, scans etc, physiotherapy, osteopathy, acupuncture and chiropractic treatment***
- **Alternative cash benefit for NHS treatment**
- **Local private hospitals and providers available**
- ***Police Treatment Centre membership – free for serving officers and frontline police staff**
- **Exclusive access to luxury holiday homes in Northumberland.**

*Limits apply. Please refer to the scheme rules.

Nottinghamshire Police Federation secretary Tom Hill said: "We're pleased to be able to introduce our members, their families and all staff employees of Nottinghamshire Police, to the National Police Healthcare Scheme.

"We know about the pressures on the

NHS and that can mean members are faced with long waits for treatment or a diagnosis of an illness or a medical condition.

"The National Police Healthcare Scheme can give them and their families peace of mind that they will be given quicker access to medical care or intervention if needed.

"We'd encourage members to look at the scheme and its benefits, and would particularly encourage our student officers to sign up as their first year's membership is free."

Find out more about the scheme – including the process for making a claim and details of what is and is not covered – in the [rules booklet](#).

Following their 21st birthday, a dependent can remain in the scheme at the rate of £16.00, which will apply in the month following their 21st birthday. This applies until they reach 30, at which point their payments will increase in accordance with the current age-related subscriptions. Subscribing members of the scheme, at the time of retirement, are also eligible to carry on the cover into retirement.

CHAIR HEAPS PRAISE ON 'CAREER-SAVING' POLICE TREATMENT CENTRES

'The support they give is career saving' says the chair of Nottinghamshire Police Federation as he reflects on his 'phenomenal' experience of the Police Treatment Centres (PTC).

Simon Riley has told of the 'invaluable' treatment he received from the charity, which provides both mental health and physical rehabilitation for members of the police family.

The support came after Simon badly damaged his knee playing football. He was 30 at the time, with two young children and had just been promoted to sergeant.

"I'd seriously damaged both my ACL [anterior cruciate ligament], MCL [medial collateral ligament] in my right leg and torn all of the cartilage in my right knee playing football, which meant I couldn't walk, let alone work," said Simon, who was off work for four months. The injury left him in a cast for eight weeks.

The injury took place in November 2000. Having returned to work on restricted duties,

Simon underwent an operation in September of the following year, leading to two more months off work.

As a donor of the PTC, Simon was able to spend time at the charity's facility in Harrogate, providing him with intense physiotherapy.

"It's phenomenal up there," continued Simon, now 53, adding: "Without a doubt, that place saved my career.

"If I hadn't spent time at the PTC I don't think I would have had the career I've had. I've said it once, and I'll say it again, it's a career-saving place'.

Simon explained that the treatment he received was 'completely tailored' to him, shaped around him regaining his strength and stability.

He said: "Within 10 minutes, the physiotherapist had changed the focus of the treatment I'd previously been having, which made a huge difference."

Simon spent four two-week stints at the centre, participating in physiotherapy, exercise

classes, and hydrotherapy.

"I basically spent my time there eating meals and resting, between sessions of physiotherapy and exercise classes. It's intense but exactly what you need when you have injured yourself so seriously," added Simon.

"It's like what a professional sportsperson would experience, and it allows you to return to work quicker."

Simon said he was able to return to work fully 14 months after the injury, something that was only made possible due to the support he received from the PTC.

"I signed up to become a donor of the PTC the first day I joined," he continued.

"The support I received was invaluable and I know the facilities are even better today - they really are state of the art.

"You never know when you might need them, but the mental and physical health programmes they provide are second to none. The physiotherapy provided really is fantastic."

SHINING A LIGHT ON RURAL CRIME

We spoke to Nottinghamshire Police's Force lead for rural and wildlife crime, Clive Collings, about the challenges, misconceptions and importance of policing in the countryside.

A police officer for almost 27 years, Clive Collings' career as a cop went through its most significant change to date when he switched forces to Nottinghamshire Police in 2022.

He was part of the furniture at South Yorkshire Police, having joined at the age of 20, but started a new challenge as chief inspector of neighbourhood policing teams across Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood after a promotion two years ago.

Becoming acquainted with his new communities would not be a worry for him, as this fresh chapter also saw the start of a secondary role as the Force's lead officer for rural and wildlife crime – meaning that, if he wasn't already, he was now certain to be covering every corner of the same towns and districts.

Clive, now 48, explained why he took on the job.

"With such a big change, I was going to have to adjust to things anyway, whatever I was doing – so it was a good opportunity to try something different. And it didn't take me long to learn what the fundamental differences between urban and rural policing are," he said.

"Obviously, towns and cities have more people – so, more factors of threat, harm and risk, but also more police staff and more witnesses to crimes. Police forces are naturally more inclined to concentrate their efforts into urban areas, and that means in rural policing, every resource must be maximised.

"This, combined with the scale of rural areas, means dealing with issues in those communities is more challenging in some ways."

Amid all the demands of modern policing, the idea of rural crime may present itself as an afterthought to some. Stretches of fields, valleys and woodland, where population density is dramatically reduced, could raise the question, 'why is a dedicated police team needed, and what exactly are they dealing with?'

Clive continued: "What I've also learnt is that there is a link between urban criminals and rural crime most people wouldn't realise.



Chief Inspector Clive Collings.

For instance, after drugs, humans and firearms, wildlife accounts for the fourth largest illegal trafficking operation in the UK.

"If avenues are closed for activity such as the first three, people are turning to these alternatives where the profile is lower, and sentences are much shorter, so it's about rebalancing that policing instinct."

Wildlife crime includes poaching, culling and activity relating to CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), the latter of which Clive revealed is becoming increasingly common through the illegal purchase and resale of exotic birds from the European continent.

As the World Wildlife Crime Report 2024 states, CITES forms a 'crucial' part of a global framework in combatting wildlife crime. On a local level, individual operations such as Nottinghamshire's are becoming more sophisticated in order to align with and carry out such protocol in their respective areas.

"We have good relationships with all four of the forces who border us – South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire," he added. "I am also the chair of the regional wildlife crime forum, which ensures we are linked together, sharing intelligence and working collaboratively."

This cross-county effort has been boosted

and formalised in recent times with the introduction of a rural and wildlife crime strategy, written by Clive himself.

In addition to wildlife crime, the strategy focuses on five other key areas: agricultural crime, environmental crime, organised criminality in rural settings, rural isolation and quality of life of residents.

He said: "There is so much more to rural crime than people are aware of. We have to deal with plant and livestock theft, countryside fly-tipping, and the storage of stolen vehicles in remote places.

"There are also social factors which can lead to crime such as domestic incidents that we need to consider."

Aided by this level of detail and scrutiny, Nottinghamshire's rural and wildlife crime team is responding to leads all over the county and making a difference.

Last year, officers secured a warrant to raid the address of a man who had committed horrific acts of cruelty against wildlife in Bassetlaw, following a complex investigation.

Discovered at the address were numerous trophies, including fox tails and badger and deer skulls, coupled with mobile phone footage of dogs being set onto animals and brutally killing them.

He was subsequently arrested and convicted this March, pleading guilty to four counts of causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal and sentenced to 32 months in prison.

"I have never seen animal cruelty like it – he had essentially set up a homemade abattoir. It was absolutely barbaric, and it had received significant outrage on social media. The way we dealt with it should demonstrate to the public how serious we are about tackling rural crime," Clive said.

The chief inspector, whose police service will reach 27 years next month, added that for all the emphasis placed on stopping criminals, there are also victims to be remembered.

He added: "We also have officers who will reach out to residents, particularly farmers, with advice on how to protect themselves against crime. I've found that you have to be a better communicator in rural policing because you are dealing with some very isolated people who can feel forgotten about by the police.

"That's why our work is so important – we are giving a voice to people who can feel really vulnerable."

NEW POLICE DRONE VEHICLE IS 'HUGE BOOST'

The introduction of a specially adapted drone car is a 'game-changer' for the Force, according to the sergeant leading the drone team.

Sergeant Vince Saunders has led the team since its inception in 2020 after an interest in the technology saw him train to become a pilot.

Creation of the team has resulted in the Force having a number of surveillance devices at their disposal which have, in turn, enhanced the role of police officers and helped them save lives.

Now, a police SUV (Sports Utility Vehicle) has been fitted with a ready-made drone, becoming operational in early May.

Vince explained the benefits of the state-of-the-art vehicle: "While all the drones we already possess have had an incredible impact, they require officers to assemble them on the spot. The car drone, however, is fully assembled and ready to activate at a moment's notice.

“While all the drones we already possess have had an incredible impact, they require officers to assemble them on the spot. The car drone, however, is fully assembled and ready to activate at a moment's notice.

"This will save us precious minutes as we can get the drone into the air more quickly. It also boosts our overall capability of getting a drone into the air, which is sometimes stunted and made difficult with our other devices if adverse weather conditions make them too difficult to assemble," he said.

Additionally, the new drone features an integrated StarLink connection, guaranteeing a high-speed, dependable WiFi signal which means pilots can stream live pictures anywhere in the county.

Vince continued: "This aspect of the



Sergeant Vince Saunders.

drone will increase our resilience in congested networks, which is another huge boost."

The 35-year-old, who contributes to the nationwide improvement of police drones on a performance working group at the National Police Chiefs' Council, added the ground-breaking characteristics of the vehicle will assist his team in a variety of assignments and incidents.

"Our bread-and-butter missions are missing people, road traffic collisions, crowd disorders, and arrest attempts and warrants,

among others," he explained.

In 2021, officers used a drone to locate a person in a 1,000-metre field in Bassetlaw after they had been reported missing. The device's camera managed to pinpoint the person who had overdosed by latching onto a tiny speck of heat.

"We have already had great success with our drones, and I am massively pleased to have this new apparatus. Technology is always advancing and getting better, and the team are delighted to be able to make this next step," Vince ended.