



policebeat

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The News Magazine of The Police Federation for Northern Ireland

Bravery and Excellence Awards showcase the best during devastating period for policing



End proceedings against officer: PFNI

Ormeau Rd. JR: A message of thanks.

"Chairman, The rollercoaster of the last week has certainly taken its toll on everyone; evidently the entire organisation not only myself and my colleague.

I want to express my thanks to the Police Federation for starting the legal spark that has unravelled so many issues in Policing here and assisted in shedding light on the case I was involved in. We still await confirmation from the PSNI that they acknowledge the findings of Mr. Schoffield and are not appealing it. I have been blessed to have been represented on a micro scale by Trevor Purcell; he is an asset to the organisation."

Email reproduced by permission of one of the two officers

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND
KING'S BENCH DIVISION (JUDICIAL REVIEW)

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION BY 'JR168' AND 'JR168A'
FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

AND IN THE MATTER OF DECISIONS OF
THE POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Re JR168 and Another's Application (Suspension of police constable)

Ronan Lavery KC and Richard Smyth (instructed by Edwards & Co, Solicitors) for the applicants
Brett Lockhart KC and Philip Henry (instructed by the Crown Solicitor's Office) for the respondent

PSNI officers unlawfully disciplined over arrest



Rank and file 'anger' as Byrne considering appeal



PSNI information security unit not told of shopping centre data theft until three weeks after it happened

'Monumental' data blunder rocks PSNI

'Shock and anger' as every officer identified

By Mark Bailey

A major PSNI data breach has caused "shock and anger" in the ranks and has the potential to do "incalculable damage," the chair of the Police Federation (PFNI) has said. It was revealed yesterday evening that a security blunder led to sensitive details - relating to every serving officer and member of staff - being inadvertently sent to a member of the public as part of a routine Freedom of Information response. The released data includes the name, role and work location of



"Shock and anger in the ranks"



BYRNE UNDER PRESSURE

PSNI puts its entire staff at risk after huge security data blunder

Disbelief as details of all 6,700 police officers are published

By Sam Nichols

and other members of the Northern Ireland Police Federation (PFNI) have expressed their disbelief as details of all 6,700 police officers are published. The information, which includes names, roles, locations and work locations, was released in response to a Freedom of Information request. The release of the data has caused significant concern among officers and their families, as it could potentially identify individuals who are working in public safety roles. The Police Federation has called for an immediate investigation into the breach and for the release of the data to be stopped. The PSNI has stated that it is aware of the issue and is working to resolve it as quickly as possible.

Also inside this issue

NI Affairs Select Committee Submission • Holiday Pay Judgement • PFNI Bravery & Excellence Awards

EDITORIAL

Time to forge a new beginning

'Tumultuous' and 'devastating' are two words that best describe what has happened to policing as summer turned to autumn. When the history of this period comes to be written, the turmoil that has been experienced will stand out as unparalleled and the worst to have engulfed policing in Northern Ireland.

We have seen a devastating data breach and an excoriating Judicial Review brought by the Federation that opened the floodgates. The latter triggered the resignation of the Chief Constable, a unanimous vote of no confidence in the Deputy Chief Constable and a Northern Ireland Policing Board seemingly gripped by paralysis and indecision.

While this meltdown was being played out, our officers were continuing to degrade and undermine dissident terrorists and provide the full range of services to the entire community. For a host of reasons, morale may be in the basement, but it didn't prevent our officers doing what they do when and where it matters most.

What happened in Derry/Londonderry proves the point. Searches yielded a kilogram of plastic explosives, two grenades, two handguns, ammunition, six improvised explosive devices and a machine pistol. Sixteen officers were injured when they came under severe attack from petrol-bombs, masonry and iron bars.

These were commendable and noteworthy operations. Dissidents would undoubtedly have used this lethal amount of firepower to attack our colleagues. Taking this amount of weaponry and explosives out of circulation has dealt a serious blow to dissident republican terrorists.

And if you want proof of commitment, courage and steadfastness, look no further than this year's Police Federation Bravery Awards. We were honoured to recognise both outstanding service and the selfless actions of colleagues.

There is no denying the scale of the task that confronts the PSNI. Tough words have been spoken – often by this Federation who called it as it was – but now we have to hit the pause button to consider next steps. It is in no one's interest to see the Service mired in seemingly endless controversy.

These next steps involve appointing a Chief Constable and recalibrating and consolidating the leadership line-up at Brooklyn. Our officers need a clear plan to be laid out explaining how we can collectively move forward. That must involve a mechanism that listens to our legitimate concerns and constructive criticism. It will have to address officer morale and set a new direction of travel aimed at restoring trust and confidence.

This Federation shares the same objectives and aims as those who have the best interests of the Service at heart. It starts with an honest conversation which is essential if we are to start to re-build from the unedifying debacles that have occurred.

