

SUFFOLK POLICE FEDERATION

A REPORT ON THE FINDINGS OF

SURVEY 2000

Introduction

As the author of this survey and report I am very proud to be a member of Suffolk Constabulary. It is up there amongst the best performers in the country.

Survey 2000 was conceived to establish Suffolk police officers' opinions on a wide variety of issues, some grand and philosophical, others of a very domestic nature.

Of course, this report highlights the attitudes and opinions of Suffolk police officers. I am not really entitled to speculate on what is going on in other forces, but I will venture this far; that if a similar exercise were to be conducted in other forces, the results would be broadly comparable.

Methodology

- 1121 questionnaires were sent out to the federated ranks of Suffolk Constabulary --- constables, sergeants, inspectors and chief inspectors. Anonymity was guaranteed. Officers seconded away from the force and new recruits at training school were not included in the exercise.
- A 20-question 'about you' section was aimed primarily at establishing trends relating to gender, ethnicity and length of service.
- The main 85-question survey set out to identify attitudes and opinions on a broad range of general issues, before concluding with domestic items on matters such as uniform and equipment.
- The questionnaire was never intended to resemble a thesis for a doctorate, written by an academic for academics. It was written in plain English by a police officer for police officers.
- The questions or statements were deliberately framed to elicit 'yes/no' or 'agree/disagree' answers.

Response Rate

884 questionnaires were returned to the Federation Office within the allowed 4-week time frame, yielding a staggering response rate of 78.9%. This in itself surely reflects the strength of feeling throughout the constabulary.

154 (17.4%) of the respondents were female officers, comparing well with their 16% proportion of the force.

Equally so, questionnaires were returned by 12 ethnic minority officers, reflecting proportionately their numbers in the force.

204 (23.1%) of the respondents joined the police service on or after 1st September 1994.

Chris BURGESS
Police Federation Secretary
Stowmarket, November 2000

Ideally, which kind of baton would you prefer to use?	
Rigid PR24 (current issue)	6.1%
Expandable PR24	13.7%
Arnold (long baton, no side handle)	2.1%
ASP or similar	76.0%