
**NORTHUMBRIA POLICE
CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE**



POLICE AUTHORITY

Wednesday 29 January 2003

Report of the Chief Constable

NON EXEMPT

1 LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

In the quarter ended 31 December 2002, 328 letters were received expressing appreciation for assistance given by members of the force, compared to 371 in the same period of the previous year.

<i>Category</i>	<i>01.10.02 to 31.12.02</i>	<i>01.10.01 to 31.12.01</i>
From relatives for assistance following a bereavement	15	24
From motorists	28	28
From persons injured in criminal activities	17	22
For assistance concerning juveniles	12	24
For assistance in the organisation of public events	18	17
For assistance involving security	8	6
In connection with missing persons	7	3
In connection with the handling of offenders	5	13
For public lectures and demonstrations	11	22
In connection with the rescue of persons	5	4
Assistance to other official departments	54	41
For charitable donations	22	29
Miscellaneous	126	138
Total:	<u>328</u>	<u>371</u>

2 RECRUITMENT AND LEAVERS - REGULAR FORCE 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2002

Recruitments

Recruits	49 (39 M/Con, 10 F/Con)
Transfers	6 (4 M/Con, 1 F/Con, 1 F/C Insp)
Rejoins	0
Total	55

Leavers

Resignations	9 (8 M/Con, 1 F/Con)
Required to resign	1 (1 F/Con)
Retired - Age	2 (2 M/Con)
Medical Pension	5 (4 M/Con, 1 F/Con)
Injury Pension	2 (2 M/Con)
Voluntary	0
Career Break	2 (1 M/Con, 1 F/Con)
Transferred	2 (2 M/Con)
Died	1 (1 M/Con)
Dismissed	0
Total	24

Establishment, Strength and Vacancies at 31 December 2002

(i) Authorised Establishment (excluding columns (ii) and (iii))	(ii) Supernumerary Authorised by Home Office	(iii) Recruitable Secondments	(iv) Authorised Establishment (including columns (ii) and (iii))	(v) Actual Strength (including columns (ii) and (iii))	(vi) Number above authorised establishment
3791	-	78	3869	4142	273

In addition appointments have been offered to 52 people.

3 SUPPORT STAFF ESTABLISHMENT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2002

CATEGORY	AUTHORISED ESTABLISHMENT			ACTUAL STRENGTH			VACANCIES		
	FULL TIME	PART TIME	TOTAL	FULL TIME	PART TIME	TOTAL	FULL TIME	PART TIME	TOTAL
SUPPORT STAFF	1511.95	0	1511.95	1351.82	97.06	1448.88	63.07	0	63.07
TRAFFIC WARDENS	72	0	72	66	0	66	6	0	6
TOTALS	1583.95	0	1583.95	1417.82	97.06	1514.88	69.07	0	69.07
SECONDMENTS				0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS				1417.82	97.06	1514.88	69.07	0	69.07

4 SECONDMENTS

Approval is sought for the following Home Office funded secondments which are subject to the provision of the Police Act 1996, Section 97, Part 3, paragraphs A and B.

Home Office Funded

Centrex

- i) Sergeant 3643 M Shannon - 3 year secondment commencing 9 January 2003.
- ii) Constable 1325 D Sharp - 3 year secondment commencing 30 January 2003.

Other Funding

Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

Chief Inspector 7867 T S Fear - 2 year secondment commencing 3 February 2003.

The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland provides an independent complaints investigation service for Northern Ireland. The officer's role will be Deputy Senior Investigation Officer.

RECOMMENDATION

That the secondments detailed above be approved.

5 ROAD TRAFFIC INCIDENTS OCCASIONING INJURY

An analysis of reported road traffic incidents occasioning injury is shown at Appendix A'.

6 NORTH EAST AIR SUPPORT UNIT

PROGRESS REPORT - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2002

During the period October to December 2002, the North East Air Support Unit responded to 1177 incidents from which there were 133 arrests.

There were 79 occasions when air support was denied, of which 48 were due to adverse weather conditions.

A selection of noteworthy incidents is attached at Appendix 'B'.

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

ROAD TRAFFIC INCIDENTS OCCASIONING INJURY

		1 April - 30 June			1 April - 30 September			1 April - 31 December			1 April - 31 March		
		2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	Diff %+/-	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	Diff %+/-	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	Diff %+/-	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	Diff %+/-
TOTAL INJURY COLLISIONS	<i>Fatal</i>	8	15	+87.5	20	31	+55.0						
	<i>Serious</i>	129	111	-14.0	251	250	-0.4						
	<i>Slight</i>	939	964	+2.7	1944	1969	+1.3						
	TOTAL:	1,076	1,090	+1.3	2,215	2,250	+1.6						
TOTAL CASUALTIES	<i>Fatal</i>	11	17	+54.5	25	33	+32.0						
	<i>Serious</i>	150	119	-20.7	294	270	-8.2						
	<i>Slight</i>	1386	1405	+1.4	2893	2886	-0.2						
	TOTAL:	1,547	1,541	-0.4	3,212	3,189	-0.7						
CAR Driver and Passenger Casualties	<i>Fatal</i>	5	11	+120.0	9	15	+66.7						
	<i>Serious</i>	52	38	-26.9	121	88	-27.3						
	<i>Slight</i>	941	944	+0.3	1984	1914	-3.5						
	TOTAL:	998	993	-0.5	2,114	2,017	-4.6						
PSV Driver and Passenger Casualties	<i>Fatal</i>	-	-	N/C	-	-	N/C						
	<i>Serious</i>	5	2	-60.0	7	6	-14.3						
	<i>Slight</i>	108	92	-14.8	200	201	+0.5						
	TOTAL:	113	94	-16.8	207	207	N/C						
GOODS Driver and Passenger Casualties	<i>Fatal</i>	-	-	N/C	-	1	-						
	<i>Serious</i>	5	1	-80.0	5	4	-20.0						
	<i>Slight</i>	40	24	-40.0	75	64	-14.7						
	TOTAL:	45	25	-44.4	80	69	-13.8						
MINI BUS Driver and Passenger Casualties	<i>Fatal</i>	-	-	N/C	-	-	N/C						
	<i>Serious</i>	-	-	N/C	-	-	N/C						
	<i>Slight</i>	2	2	N/C	4	5	+25.0						
	TOTAL:	2	2	N/C	4	5	+25.0						
Rider and passenger casualties of motor cycles and mopeds	<i>Fatal</i>	4	1	-75.0	8	8	N/C						
	<i>Serious</i>	32	30	-6.3	52	65	+25.0						
	<i>Slight</i>	41	60	+46.3	108	134	+24.1						
	TOTAL:	77	91	+18.2	168	207	+23.2						
OTHER Driver and Passenger Casualties	<i>Fatal</i>	-	-	N/C	-	-	N/C						
	<i>Serious</i>	-	1	-	2	4	+100.0						
	<i>Slight</i>	4	13	+225.0	9	19	+111.1						
	TOTAL:	4	14	+250.0	11	23	+109.1						
Pedal Cyclist Casualties	<i>Fatal</i>	1	1	N/C	1	1	N/C						
	<i>Serious</i>	13	9	-30.8	32	27	-15.7						
	<i>Slight</i>	77	93	+20.8	178	195	+9.6						
	TOTAL:	91	103	+13.2	211	223	+5.7						
Pedestrian Casualties	<i>Fatal</i>	1	4	+300.0	7	8	+14.3						
	<i>Serious</i>	43	38	-11.6	75	76	+1.3						
	<i>Slight</i>	173	177	+2.3	335	354	+5.7						
	TOTAL:	217	219	+0.9	417	438	+5.0						

North East Air Support Unit
Summary of Noteworthy Incidents

Total Flying Hours

Helicopter Flying Hours Aprilto December 2002 - Total Flying Hours	936
Budget	963
Fixed Wing Flying Hours April to December2002 - Total Flying Hours	696
Budget	756

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incident</u>	<u>Time on Task</u>	<u>Result</u>
3/10/02	1620hrs	The aeroplane crew searched the beach at Hartlepool for persons on a motorcycle.	40 mins	The crew located the vehicle and directed officers to arrest two suspects and recover a stolen motor cycle.
3/10/02	1900hrs	The helicopter attended the West Rainton area to search for a missing child.	35 mins	A heat source was detected by the thermal imager. Officers were directed and found the child who was taken home.
6/10/02	0133hrs	The helicopter crew spotted a vehicle being driven at high speed in Houghton-le-Spring.	32 mins	Officers were directed to intercept the vehicle and a man was arrested for driving with excess alcohol.
7/10/02	0455hrs	The helicopter crew searched for a man who was considered to be at risk on the Tyne Bridge at Newcastle.	1hr	The crew identified the man running along the quayside. Officers were directed and he was detained for his own safety.
15/10/02	2040hrs	The helicopter attended the Whitley Bay area after a stolen vehicle 'Tracker' activation.	50 mins	The aircraft crew traced the signal to a set of lock up garages and directed motor patrols officers who discovered three stolen vehicles valued at £35,000.
19/10/02	1055 hrs	The helicopter attended Newcastle West to search for a stolen motor cycle being ridden dangerously.	22 mins	The aircraft crew located two suspects on a motor cycle. Officers were directed and suspects arrested.
20/10/02	0755hrs	The helicopter attended Morpeth area to search for a missing couple suffering from hypothermia.	25 mins	Using thermal imaging the crew located the missing persons and gave first aid at the scene. They were then airlifted from a field to a waiting ambulance and admitted to hospital for treatment.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incident</u>	<u>Time on Task</u>	<u>Result</u>
23/10/02	0215 hrs	The helicopter crew attended Sunderland to search for a blind and partially deaf man who was lost and extremely cold.	30 mins	The man, using his mobile phone, was describing his location to a police call taker who relayed information to the aircraft crew who were searching for him using the thermal image camera and the aircraft searchlight. He was detected and officers were directed to assist him to safety.
9/11/02	1645hrs	The helicopter searched for an 80 year old man missing from a hospital in Derwentside.	40 mins	The crew, using the thermal imager, located the man who was trapped at the bottom of an embankment. Police officers were directed to his location and he was taken to safety.
12/11/02	0005hrs	The aeroplane assisted in the safe management of a pursuit of a stolen vehicle in Durham City area.	45 mins	The aircraft crew followed the stolen vehicle using the aircraft camera equipment from Durham to Stanley area where the vehicle was abandoned after driving off road. Officers were directed to the location of the driver who was arrested for aggravated vehicle taking.
21/11/02	1835hrs	The aeroplane searched for two vulnerable missing youths at Stockton.	15 mins	The aircraft crew conducted a search and found the two youths in an isolated area. Officers were then directed and arranged for medical treatment.
24/11/02	0005hrs	The aeroplane crew using thermal imaging searched rooftops of commercial properties in Redcar for burglary suspects.	25 mins	The aircraft crew identified two heat sources on a roof. Officers were directed to the location and the suspects were arrested for burglary.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incident</u>	<u>Time on Task</u>	<u>Result</u>
27/11/02	0045hrs	The helicopter deployed to a report of two persons in distress in the River Tyne at Newcastle.	15 mins	The crew, using the thermal imager and aircraft searchlight, located the two persons in distress in the river. Both males were in immediate danger of being swept away by the current and at the time no water borne assistance was available. The crew used the down draught of the helicopter rotor blades to blow the casualties into the quayside whilst illuminating their position with the searchlight. The two men were then rescued from the water by police officers on the quayside. They received hospital treatment for hypothermia.
11/12/02	1140hrs	The helicopter searched for stolen plant equipment in the Derwentside area.	30 mins	The crew located high value equipment which was subsequently recovered and a suspect was arrested.
14/12/02	1300hrs	The helicopter crew was requested to assist police and paramedics in South West Northumberland where a rider had fallen from a horse in a remote area.	15 mins	A paramedic and casualty were airlifted to hospital from an area which was inaccessible by road.
17/12/02	1725hrs	The helicopter crew assisted in the safe management of a stolen vehicle pursuit through the three forces of Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland.	1 hr 10mins	Using the thermal imager and the searchlight, the aircraft crew monitored the pursuit until the vehicle was abandoned and the driver ran off across fields. A dog section officer was directed and the suspect was arrested for aggravated vehicle taking.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incident</u>	<u>Time on Task</u>	<u>Result</u>
18/12/02	1130hrs	The helicopter crew, using the stolen vehicle 'Tracker' searched for a stolen motor car in the Houghton le Spring area.	25 mins	The aircraft crew located the stolen vehicle, valued at £28,000, in Durham City. Local officers were directed to a shopping centre car park where the vehicle was recovered.
21/12/02	0605hrs	The helicopter attended Gateshead to assist with a search for a suspect responsible for theft from a motor vehicle.	10 mins	The aircraft located a suspect in gardens using the thermal image equipment. The man was arrested and charged with several offences of theft and handling stolen goods.
21/12/02	0625hrs	The helicopter attended a report of a serious road traffic collision resulting in two vehicles and occupants entering the River Tyne at Newcastle.	20 mins	The aircraft crew provided illumination and downlink pictures to assist with the rescue of the casualties from the River Tyne. Both occupants were taken to hospital.
27/12/02	2340hrs	The helicopter attended the cliffs at Wearmouth Bridge, Sunderland following the report of a young girl stranded on a cliff.	45 mins	Whilst the fire service located and secured her the aircraft illuminated the scene and provided downlink pictures. The girl was rescued from the rock face safe and well.
28/12/02	0105hrs	The aeroplane attended a search in Bishop Auckland following a report of persons discharging firearms.	25 mins	The aircraft crew directed officers to three suspects who were reported for firearms offences and their weapons were seized.

7 **MEDICAL RETIREMENTS**

The Force Medical Officer has medically examined the undermentioned officers and reviewed their medical records. He considered they were no longer fit to carry out the full duties of a police officer. In accordance with the delegated authority granted (Minute No 248 - March 1991) they have been retired on an injury/ill-health pension as indicated, with effect from the dates shown.

Injury pensions are subject to reduction by three quarters of the ill-health pension received, and any benefits from the DSS.

<i>Medical Retirement</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Pension Entitlement</i>
No 1/03 Constable 52 years of age 25 years pensionable service	1) Capsulitis of right shoulder 2) Depression Whilst on duty on 6 June 2001, the officer was stationary in a police vehicle when it was struck from behind by another vehicle, causing injuries to back, neck and arm. Degree of disability: 26% to 50%	Injury entitlement of 70% average pensionable pay, plus an injury gratuity of 75% average pensionable pay, plus an ill health pension of 38/60ths average pensionable pay. Review in 5 years. Effective date: 17.12.02.
No 2/03 Constable 31 years of age 10 years pensionable service	1) Ankylosing Spondylosis	Ill health pension of 20/60ths average pensionable pay. Effective date: 21.12.02.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Police Authority note the actions of the Chief Constable.

