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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ideally, which kind of baton would you prefer to use?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rigid PR24 (current issue)</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expandable PR24</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arnold (long baton, no side handle)</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASP or similar</td>
<td>76.0%</td>
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