

Dear Colleagues,

You will now be aware of the furore created over the issue of tattoos. It appears the Mail On Sunday have taken an article from the Police Review (18/7) and then used that as a basis for their article entitled - "Police Leader: We need more officers with tattoos – they break the ice with the public". This article has now been replicated in the Daily Mail & The Sun.

I have never spoken to any of these newspapers and I have never uttered the ridiculous statement – we need more officers with tattoos.

I have written to the Mail On Sunday complaining about the standard of journalism and the complete misrepresentations in the article. I also seek an apology and retraction. I wait with baited breath. Here is Kent Police Federation's position on tattoos:

Kent Police has a policy on tattoos. If they are offensive, lewd, crude, etc then they must be covered. Kent Police Federation supports that policy.

Kent Police wishes to change that policy to include "excessive" tattoos. This begs the question what is excessive and, more importantly, what is not.

We do believe there is a generational gap in attitudes to tattoos. Many don't like them but many younger people do.

Kent Police does not receive any complaints from members of the public relating to tattoos.

Many frontline police officers, some from other forces, have stated their tattoos can be an icebreaker with younger people.

Historically we have recruited from the Armed Forces, many of whom have tattoos on the lower arm.

Regards,

Jan

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