

# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The Furore Surrounding “The Thin Blue Line”

North Wales and Sussex Police have ordered their Officers to remove patches and badges symbolising “**The Thin Blue Line**” - and it is being widely reported that this may have political symbolism.

**UK Cop Humour**<sup>(1)</sup> was involved in a discussion on Twitter in January, where there was a suggestion that a “**Thin Blue Line**<sup>(2)</sup>” Velcro patch design would be a great way to spread some morale amongst Police Officers - whilst also raising money for a Police charity.

There was never any discussion or suggestion that this was about Politics. A simple Google search will reveal that the “**Thin Blue Line**” in relation to Policing is a universal symbol that represents ‘the thin blue line between good and evil in society’. It is also synonymous with fallen Officers and is widely worn in memory of colleagues lost in the line of duty.

The charity chosen was **COPS - Care of Police Survivors**<sup>(3)</sup>. COPS is a UK registered charity dedicated to helping the families of police officers who have lost their lives on duty, rebuild their lives. It aims to ensure that survivors have all the help they need to cope with such a tragedy, and that they remain part of the police family. There is no better cause for serving Police to donate towards.

To date, fans and supporters of **UK Cop Humour** and “**The Thin Blue Line**” have raised £5785.00 which was donated to **COPS** on Friday 6th February 2015 via their

JustGiving website. We are confident that this figure will pass £10,000 by the end of February.

It has been widely reported that North Wales Police and Sussex Police have ordered the removal of these symbols at present. Once again, there has been no official mention of Politics. To the best of our knowledge, it is “uniform policy” being quoted. Sussex Police have also stated that the matter will be reviewed in conjunction with the Police Federation. We are hopeful that the policy will be reviewed - by Sussex and by other forces - to reflect the feelings of their staff.

We are pleased to see that some high ranking Officers have been supportive on Twitter and have bought patches themselves to give to staff. It should be noted that exceptions have been made in the past, e.g. allowing Officers to wear "Help for Heroes" badges in support of our fantastic Armed forces. Surely, Police Officers should be allowed to support their own cause?

**Ends.**

**For further information, please contact:**

UK Cop Humour

contact@ukcophumour.co.uk

Any queries will be addressed via email as we are keen to keep the focus of this matter on raising money for Police charities and publicising the good work that Police Officers do.

**Notes to editors:**

**(1) “UK Cop Humour”** was initially created on Facebook in response to negativity towards Police Officers in the media. A small group of everyday people who are proud of the Police in this country wanted to do something to show that Police are human beings beneath their uniforms and to reflect the good work that goes on every single day.

**UK Cop Humour** has over 133,000 fans on Facebook and 12,000 followers on Twitter - a huge pro-Police community and far bigger than any official Police page. UKCH has previously been featured in the press and on TV for various stories shared that have gone “viral”.

**(2) “The Thin Blue Line”** - There are many references to the thin blue line in popular culture. It depends on your viewpoint as to whether it came from the 1988 documentary of the same name - featuring a final argument from the prosecutor in which he made reference to 'the thin blue line being the Police that separate the public from anarchy.' Not very long ago, the British police wore blue shirts. They were the thin blue line and still are regardless of the colour of the shirt they now wear.

**(3) COPS - Care of Police Survivors.** Their website is at <http://www.ukcops.org/>

“Thin Blue Line” Velcro patches and pin badges available at [www.ukcophumour.co.uk/shop](http://www.ukcophumour.co.uk/shop)

For every Velcro patch sold we donate £1.00 to charity and for every Enamel Pin Badge we sell we donate £1.50 to charity. We also include free postage and packaging in the price.

There have been thousands of patches and badges sold - not only in the United Kingdom - but also as far away as the United States and Australia. This shows just how far the "Thin Blue Line" stretches across the globe.