

**Police Federation
of England and Wales**



**Ffederasiwn Heddlu
Lloegr a Chymru**

Established by Act of Parliament

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PI/ccl

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**To: Chairman and Secretary
Joint Branch Boards**

Dear Colleagues

Night Working and cancer

A recent Newsletter from Hazards 'While you were Sleeping' indicated the affects of shift work in relation to cancer. This follows on from a recent case which resulted in the Danish government beginning to pay compensation to women who developed breast cancer after long spells working nights.

A lot of work has been carried out on this issue and the Danish authorities acted following a finding by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), an arm of the UN's World Health Organisation.

The approach of the British government is to await research that is being undertaken by the HSE, who have commissioned a very eminent epidemiologist to examine the risk of working at night and whether there is any link to breast cancer. This report will be completed in 2011.

Due to the nature of Policing and whilst we await the findings of the HSE, the JCC has taken a position of monitoring and raising awareness.

We have therefore included the hyperlink to the Hazards article and would also encourage JBB's to ensure the WTR requirements for health surveillance is delivered by your force.

<http://www.hazards.org/hours/shiftwork.htm>

We have also included a number of hyperlinks which maybe of assistance for further information the list is not endless but a suggested starting point:

<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/news/archive/newsarchive/2009/march/19080079>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr132.pdf>

<http://www.iarc.fr/index.php>