



Media Release

International Association of Women Police – Bravery Award, 2019 **Constable Jessica Hanley Dyfed-Powys Police, Wales, UK.**

The majority of Constable Hanley's career to date has been spent in a uniformed policing role as a front-line uniformed response officer covering a wide area in North Ceredigion, West Wales and is well-liked by all her colleagues across shifts and departments. She is incredibly dedicated and hardworking providing an extremely high standard of service to the community and is always ready to assist colleagues, currently involved in tutoring newly trained Special Constables. She is brave and selfless and treats everyone she meets with respect and dignity and is hugely valued by her many friends within the organisation. In addition to English and Welsh, she also speaks French fluently.

At around 0225 hours on Wednesday 25th July 2018, Dyfed Powys Police received reports of a fire at The Belgrave Hotel situated on the promenade in Aberystwyth. Persons were reported as being trapped on the first and second floors, Constable Hanley was one of the first Police Officers at the scene. She showed exemplary bravery in entering the burning hotel with no thoughts for her own safety, to clear and evacuate guests (including 2 young children) trapped inside and prior to the attendance of the first fire service personnel. Whilst evacuating residents, Constable Hanley also ensured the safety of a colleague, assisting them to leave the burning Hotel after they had become disorientated due to the high volume of smoke and lack of any emergency lighting. She remained calm, professional and clear headed and maintained sight of a clear escape route whilst maintaining visual contact and communication with her colleague. Her calmness allowed her colleague to orientate themselves and escape the building. Constable Hanley was also able to alert her colleague to the danger from a collapsing floor which they were unaware of from their position within the Hotel. The fire began to spread into the roof space of the adjoining Belle Vue Hotel.

Constable Hanley went on to assist in the evacuation of all but one of the guests from both hotels, quickly checking off names and updating the Bronze Commander and the Force Communications Centre. In total, 59 occupants were rescued. She remained calm whilst reassuring traumatized guests and assisted fire service colleagues in retrieving the rescued children and conveying them safely to the waiting ambulances. Constable Hanley acted with the utmost bravery, care and compassion in very challenging circumstances. Sadly, one resident perished in the incident which was caused by deliberate ignition (Arson) and which resulted in the collapse of flooring and roof in both premises. The Society for the Protection of Life from Fire has awarded PC Hanley a Certificate of Bravery for her selfless and brave actions.

Constable Hanley will be recognised for her bravery at a formal luncheon during the IAWP's 57th Annual Training Conference due to take place between 23rd and 27th September in Anchorage, Alaska, USA.

IAWP President Deborah Friedl, "For the past 104 years, IAWP has promoted the role of women in policing. IAWP champions change to enable women to play their full part in delivering an inclusive service to their local communities. Without our annual recognition programme many phenomenal women and men would go unrecognized for their efforts".

The **Mission** of the IAWP is: To strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally. The **Vision**: IAWP envisions a world where police reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and where human rights are protected.

For more information about IAWP visit www.iawp.org

For further information on the 2019 recognition programme or permissions please contact Jane Townsley, executivedirector@iawp.org