

Obituary – Barry Smith QPM



It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Barry Smith, aged 80, on 26th January 2024.

Barry began his police career in 1963 at Stafford, was appointed to CID after two years' service and promoted to Detective Sergeant in 1967. The formation of MDP in 1971 saw him promoted to uniformed Inspector, serving in Northern Ireland. Based at Aldergrove Airport, he was also part of the Police Support Team to the Army for various operations within the province. He also acted periodically as the Police Liaison and Personal Escort Officer to numerous show business personalities visiting the province to entertain troops.

After three years Barry returned to CID duty on the mainland and was the Senior Investigating Officer on a protracted inquiry into the, then, most expensive recorded arson in British history which occurred at COD Donnington (£200m). In 1984 Barry was promoted to Superintendent and moved to the first of a series of staff appointments, including Personnel Management and Commandant of the Force Training Centre. In 1992 he was appointed to ACC (P&T).

A graduate of various Command and Investigative Courses at the Police Staff College, in 1987 he became the first MDP officer ever to attend the Joint Services Defence College at Greenwich where he was proud to become a 'Cormorant'. Barry was a founder member of the MDP Band and later became its President.

During his police service Barry was awarded the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, as well as the Service Medal for Northern Ireland. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Management and was awarded the Queens Police Medal in the 2002 New Years Honours.

Barry retired from the Force in 2003 in the rank of Assistant Chief Constable and is survived by his wife Kath and two sons Philip and Kevin.

Barry's funeral is being held at Gloucester Crematorium on Monday 26th February at 1pm followed on at the Arbor Suite in the grounds of the Crematorium.