

Shipman scandal detective keeps job

By Nigel Bunyan

A DETECTIVE whose failings allowed Harold Shipman to claim his last three victims will resume his career, it was announced yesterday.

Det Insp David Smith, 49, will face no stricture beyond being "advised" about his conduct by his superiors at Greater Manchester Police.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) found evidence that questioned the officer's "honesty, integrity and performance". But it decided against ordering his force to discipline him because any investigation was "highly unlikely to prove" breaches of conduct.

Mr Smith, who has been suspended on full pay for almost three years, will keep his £45,000-a-year job and full pension rights.

The IPCC expressed "disappointment" that some of his colleagues would not assist in its investigation.

The Crown Prosecution Service had already decided there was insufficient evidence to pursue the detective, despite his lying on oath to a High Court judge.

Shipman, a GP in Hyde, Greater Manchester, had killed more than 250 of his patients by the time Mr Smith was called in to investigate.

He failed to speak to Shipman or to check whether he had a criminal record. That left the serial killer free to murder Winifred Mellor, 73, Joan Melia, 73, and Kathleen Grundy, 81.

Mr Smith, who lied to his superiors and to the inquiry headed by Dame Janet Smith, was also criticised by a judge over a separate murder case.

The trial of six men charged with killing David Barnshaw, a drug dealer, was halted because police withheld evidence and failed to disclose information to the defence.

Judge Penry-Davey, sitting at Preston Crown Court, accused Mr Smith of "not telling the truth" and he was suspended over both matters.



'Up against the Wall', by Royal Academician David Mach, is made up of photographs of naked women



Eye to eye with 'Mr Edward Powell Distortion in Media' by John Patrick Humphreys

Royal Academy calls up shock troops for Summer Exhibition

By Nigel Reynolds
Arts Correspondent

IN THE *Sensation* exhibition nine years ago, Damien Hirst and his band challenged the art establishment in its own citadel, the Royal Academy. Now, Hirst's shock troops have become the establishment.

This year's Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, once a byword for tradition and the butt of much criticism, has become open to Hirst's young British Artists movement of the 1990s.

There are, to be sure, still many dog portraits, still lifes and seascapes. But the Venice - submitted by aspiring amateurs to the world's oldest and biggest annual salon - but this year, the 238th summer show, they rub shoulders with the creations of a more avant garde generation.

Tracey Emin has entered a trademark watercolour nude. Marcus Harvey, whose portrait of the Moors murderer Myra Hindley was pelted with eggs and caused huge controversy at the 1997 *Sensation* show, is back in the academy with a painting called *Toilet Roll*, which needs no further explanation.



A detail of David Mach's portrait of Vincent Van Gogh

In the courtyard of Burlington House stands *The Virgin Mother*, a 35ft tall, 13½-ton bronze statue by Damien Hirst of a pregnant woman with the skin on her stomach cut away to reveal the foetus in her womb.

Back inside Gavin Turk does his best to unsettle animal lovers with *Hare Egg*, a large ovoid made from hare pelts. Martin Creed repeats his 2001 Turner Prize-winning stunt - a light switching on and off - with wall lamp that does (on sale for £2,700).

"This is a place that is changing. It has to, to survive," said David Mach,

one of the Royal Academicians responsible for the show. Mach's entries are photo-collages - including sculptures of naked women made from photographs of naked women and a portrait of Van Gogh made from cut-up photos of Prince William.

Ken Howard, another academician who helped the selection, denied that the academy was making a deliberate attempt to shock. He said: "The summer exhibition is never revolutionary but revolutionary." The exhibition opens on Monday and runs to Aug 20.