

# Police 'must protect' doggers says manual

By Stephen Deal

PEOPLE who indulge in public sex outdoors – doggers – must be protected from abuse and verbal taunts, police have been told.

And anyone who subjects them to 'hate crime' should be arrested.

People who take part in exhibitionist outdoor sex still have rights protecting them from prejudice that could cause post-traumatic stress, says the Association of Chief

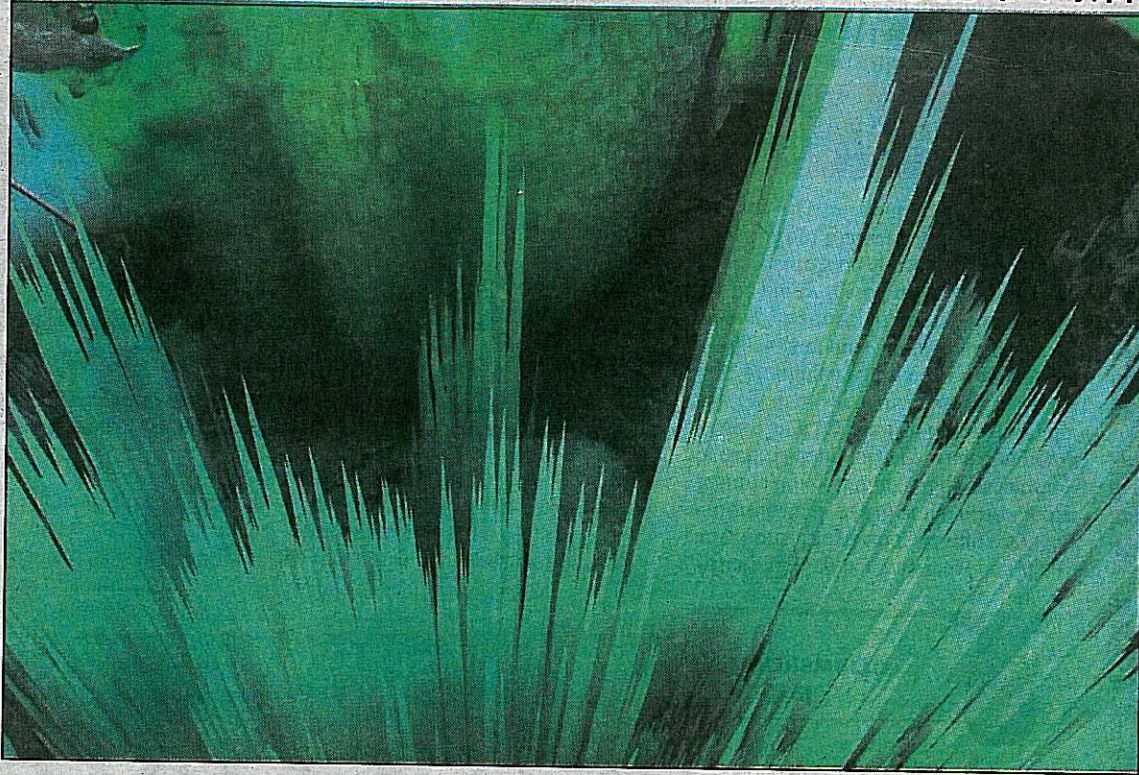
Police Officers in Scotland.

The Hate Crime Guidance Manual said issues on open-air sex 'can be complex' but warned 'police must accept they have the dual responsibility of ensuring that any victims of crime in such environments receive a professional response'.

But Les Gray, chairman of the Scottish Police Federation, told Police Review magazine: 'I do not believe our officers require a 60-page booklet to tell them we should carry out our duties without fear, favour, malice or ill-will.'

'No matter the circumstances, officers will always do their utmost to prevent crime in the first instance and where a crime has been committed assist the victim and endeavour to detect the culprit.'

The guidance was published last week.



Light fantastic: This 3million-year-old ice cave has become a popular tourist destination. The cave in China's Ningwu County has five floors and is up to 100m (330ft) deep in places. Picture: Rex