

'Supermum' who flew up the ranks appointed to chief constable's post

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AND MARK SMITH

A WOMAN dubbed "Supermum" for her rise up the police ranks while raising a family is to take charge of a Scottish police force.

Justine Curran, 42, has been appointed Chief Constable of Tayside, two years after joining the force as deputy chief.

Nicknamed "Supermum" in her previous beat in Manchester, Ms Curran was promoted to the rank of commander there when her daughter Amelia was only eight months old.

A former front-line officer in Wigan, she is an expert in crowd control, anti-terrorism and community policing. She was in charge of operations when Rangers fans rioted in Manchester city centre following their side's Uefa Cup Final defeat in 2008.

She has also been a vigorous campaigner for better conditions for working mothers in the force.

Her promotion to chief constable,

NAME: Justine Curran

AGE: 42

MARITAL STATUS: Married to Graham, a police inspector, with two children.

BACKGROUND: Born in Sheffield; grew up in Lancashire.

EDUCATION: Degree in classical studies.

WORK HISTORY

1989: Joined Greater Manchester Police (GMP) on a graduate programme.

CV

1991-2003: Promoted to sergeant; inspector; chief inspector; then chief superintendent and divisional commander for North Manchester Division.

2007: Assistant chief constable at GMP. Head of counter-terrorism unit for north-west England.

2008: Deputy chief constable, Tayside Police.

2010: Chief constable, Tayside Police.

ble, on a salary of £124,000, makes her the second woman to hold the position in Scotland, after Norma Graham was appointed Chief Constable of Fife in 2008.

The new chief constable joined the police in 1989 as a graduate trainee and began her career in Wigan. She quickly rose through the ranks with Greater Man-

chester Police, and later at the Merseyside force, before being appointed assistant chief constable at Tayside in November 2008.

She had been the force's acting chief constable since Kevin Mathieson retired in August last year.

Councillor Ian Mackintosh, convener of Tayside Joint Police Board, said he was delighted that

the board's appointment sub-committee had unanimously agreed to offer the post of chief constable to Ms Curran.

He said: "Justine comes to the post of chief constable with great experience and knowledge gained from her time with Merseyside Police, Greater Manchester Police and serving as deputy chief constable at Tayside Police."

Ms Curran, who is part of the Scottish Police Service team that is reviewing counter-terrorism operations, is expected to take up her post with immediate effect.

She could not be contacted for comment about her groundbreaking appointment last night.

But equality groups welcomed the news, saying there needs to be more women with families in top police jobs.

Karen Dargo, from Edinburgh-based equality group Engender, said: "This is a welcome appointment although there is still work to be done in Scottish forces, such as helping working mums with child-care arrangements."

