



## SCOTTISH POLICE FEDERATION

Established by Act of Parliament

The Editor  
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By email to: [letters@Sundayherald.com](mailto:letters@Sundayherald.com)

Dear Sir

### **Politicisation of Policing**

I don't believe any observer would consider that the Police Service of Scotland dealt with the sensitivities of standing firearms authority particularly well but the service has responded and for that it should be applauded.

The Chief Constable is the right person to make decisions about policing in Scotland and of course his approach should be informed, but not determined by public opinion and certainly not by any point scoring politician.

The Chief Constable has access to the full risk and intelligence picture and is paid a lot of money to make difficult decisions. If all his information supports the need for a tiny proportion of officers to retain a standing firearms authority, this should carry greater weight than any NIMBY utopian view that gangsters and criminals don't live in my area.

I distinctly recall the politicisation of the police brouhaha in parliament at the time the Police Service of Scotland was created. Many would do well to consider their own words and how these were conveniently disregarded when demanding intervention by Kenny MacAskill.

Criticising policing is easy - doing our job is not. I have little doubt that those who decried the carrying out of routine duties, which appears to now mean anything that involves leaving the police car, will be the same ones who criticise if the same officers do not respond to incidents that occur right in front of them. One could mistakenly believe that politicisation of the police is only unacceptable if it is being undertaken by 'the other guy'.

Whether you agree with Sir Stephen House or not, his standing up to political interference is something we should all be grateful for.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Docherty', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Brian Docherty**

Chairman

Scottish Police Federation