



SCOTTISH POLICE FEDERATION
5 Woodside Place, Glasgow, G3 7QF

MEDIA RELEASE

The Scottish Police Federation represents all police officers in the ranks of constable, sergeant, inspector and chief inspector, police cadets and special constables; over 18,500 people, 98% of all police officers in Scotland.

To: Andrew Picken - Sunday Post

Date: 26 May 2016

Subject: Renfrewshire Council - Special Constable

Speaking in response to Renfrewshire Council advertising "traineeship placements" as special constables Calum Steele, General Secretary of the Scottish Police Federation said;

"The Scottish Police Federation believes initiatives to improve employment opportunities for anyone should be generally welcomed. However such opportunities must be genuine and not seek to take advantage of anyone who is desperate for work; they also must not undermine long established and nationally agreed working conditions.

We believe this proposal by Renfrewshire Council is more about a cynical attempt to deliver policing on the cheap rather than genuinely creating employment opportunities.

We are also far from convinced the initiative is lawful as it implies the council has authority to not only pay special constables but also to determine their remuneration. We can find no legal basis that would support such a position.

Quite simply if Renfrewshire Council believes there is a need for additional policing resources in the local authority area, they should implore the Police Service of Scotland to either deploy more officers in the area or directly recruit those who pass the national entry standards.

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

- 1. The Renfrewshire Council careers page detailing the trainee placements can be found here <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/specialconstable>*
- 2. The conditions of service for special constables, including appointment and remuneration is determined by regulation <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/43/contents/made>*

For further information contact Lesley Stevenson at 5 Woodside Place, Glasgow, G3 7QF Telephone: 0141 332 5234
Mobile: 0785 875743 Fax: 0141 331 2436
Email: lesley.stevenson@spf.org.uk