



SCOTTISH POLICE FEDERATION

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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: News Editors
Date: 6th November 2017
Subject: Violence & Disorder in Edinburgh.

Last night (5th November 2017) police officers in the Drylaw area of Edinburgh were attacked by groups of youths using bricks, boulders and rockets. Members of the public were also attacked and vehicles were set on fire amid scenes described as being similar to the riots in London. One officer sustained significant burns to her neck and body when she was struck with a firework and missiles were launched at her and other officers.

Earlier today (6th November 2017) a police officer was stabbed while attending an incident in Edinburgh.

Speaking in response to these events Andy Malcolm Chair of the East Area of the Scottish Police Federation said;

"In the past 24 hours police officers in Edinburgh have been subject to the most horrific violence. We have officers who have been bricked, stoned, burned and now stabbed. It is disgraceful that officers have suffered grievous injury yet remarkable that the numbers of those who have is so low.

Officers found themselves targeted by gangs of youths, the levels of violence and disorder were similar to a riot and officers found themselves in life threatening situations.

Officers found their vehicles being bricked and surrounded by gangs of youths trying to break in to attack them. Several vehicles were damaged and sustained smashed windscreens and damaged panels. They are now off the road pending repair"

Officers felt helpless to respond to attacks due to a lack of protection available to them and members of the public.

The service appeared ill prepared to respond to this level of violence and an urgent review of resourcing and protective equipment should now be undertaken to ensure protection of officers and the communities we serve."

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