



## 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: News Editors**  
**Date: 9 October 2020**  
**Subject: PSoS Officers urged officers to continue to use “haphazard” COVID app**

Operational officers in the Police Service of Scotland are being urged by their staff association to keep using the NHS Scotland “Protect-Scot” COVID app, despite derogatory comments about its effectiveness from the Force’s health and safety team.

The Scottish Police Federation, which represents 98% of police officers, considers the app to be a valuable component of the track and trace model that will stop the virus spreading amongst officers and across the community. However, senior personnel with Police Scotland’s health and safety group have described the app as “haphazard”, “unreliable”, and “inaccurate”, recommending that all officers be instructed not to use it.

David Hamilton, Chair of the Scottish Police Federation said,

“Police Scotland’s casual disregard for the health and safety of its officers is laid bare with its contemptible description of the technology the population of Scotland is encouraged to use to help defeat Covid19.

Police Scotland needs to wake up to the risk and exposure that its operational officers are facing. This reckless “ostrich-ing” needs to stop and Police Scotland should publicly join us in encouraging all operational officers to use this helpful technology. The service really needs to spend more time mitigating risks and less time hiding from them.”

Ends

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