



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: All Media Outlets

Date: 30 May 2019

Subject: PSoS Estate and Fleet

SPF Area Chairmen highlighting more issues with the crumbling estate and fleet across the country. The new images are available below at

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/trx2udr31mizpuy/AAD97eIZ16ed3C2RgdSirnna?dl=0>

and have been released to coincide with the appearance of General Secretary, Calum Steele, at the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing at the Scottish Parliament today (30/05) where he highlighted how the poor conditions are affecting stations throughout Scotland.

East

Andy Malcolm, Chair of the East Area Committee for the Scottish Police Federation, said: "The mould on the walls of the locker room in Stirling was first highlighted to the force in October 2018 but nothing has been done to fix the problem due to a lack of funding. "This is just one example of the estate issues in the east and there is simply no money to fix them. "The SPF identified worse changing rooms than the ones at Stirling. They were highlighted to the force in October last year but work has only just begun this month due to the new financial year. "As a result, officers are being left to endure diabolical and unhygienic conditions such as these. "This is only the tip of the iceberg. The crumbling estate and the state of the vehicle fleet is damaging our ability to respond to incidents. "The choice to attend is often hampered by the number of available vehicles as the rest are often being repaired. "There are times when officers are finding only two serviceable vehicles out of 10. "The force is currently paying high repair costs rather than replacing vehicles which have exceeded the five year old limit or 150,000 miles replacement scheme. "Communities are being failed by the lack of regard for essential pieces of equipment. "Police Scotland is currently focused on buying the new sat nav for the ship at a point where the ship is sinking."

North

Gordon Forsyth, Chair for the North Area Committee for the Scottish Police Federation, said: "Throughout the north area, officer's daily tasks are being made more difficult due to the condition of the buildings and the vehicles they have to utilise. "What appears to be simple repairs are being left to deteriorate due to the lack of funding in the estates budget. "The photos taken at Burnett Road police station in Inverness showing the peeling flooring and stair treads missing and being fixed back down with sticky tape, which is in itself a metaphor. "Officers using damaged chairs or having torn carpets in their offices again appears to have a simple fix, but divisions are being severely constrained by their budgets. "As was found in the Forfar office too often we are seeing temporary fixes with buckets or funnels to catch rain water from leaking roofs or pipe becoming the permanent solution. "This is simply down to budgets being too low to manage the demands placed upon them to carry out basic maintenance to aging estates. "Parts of the fleet are ageing and vehicles are expected to be on the road far longer than they ever used to be. "It is not that long ago that it would have been difficult to find a police vehicle in the north of Scotland with more than 100,000 miles on the clock. The surprise is now to find a vehicle with under 100,000 miles. "As a result there are numerous vehicles where the officers have to deal with damaged seats making it difficult to adjust or simply the perception the public have seeing them driving about in rusting vans which makes them look unroadworthy. "The mechanical demands placed upon standard specification family type cars in the policing environment is purely the reason why we see so many of them having to be recovered from the side of the road. "The time the vehicles spend off the road being repaired and maintained is time that officers aren't as visible in their communities as they should be. "We work closely with the divisional command teams and they have all been working hard to manage the buildings in the north area. "The replacement of the Peterhead station is an example of some progress in that area. "While the working conditions in the Peterhead police station are far from ideal, the knowledge that a new station is on the near horizon is making the current conditions more manageable for the officers working there at this time."

West

Paul Connelly, Chair of the West Area Committee for the Scottish Police Federation, said: "Police officers are expected to deal with the most traumatic incidents and I don't think that it's unreasonable for them to have cars that are fit for purpose and buildings that are windproof, water tight and rat free. "I am aware of serious building defects that have taken years to rectify. It's not credible for Police Scotland to say that their estate and fleet are in good condition when they have been given a fraction of the capital budget they requested. "Some of the buildings that have been highlighted, such as the toilets at London Road Police Station, have been shabby and deteriorating for years."

ENDS

Note to editors:

The images were all taken at police stations across Scotland within the last few days/weeks by the Scottish Police Federation.

Picture 1 & picture 3 - Water damage on the ceiling within Maryfield Police Station in Dundee.

Picture 2 - Damaged and peeling wallpaper at Blairgowrie Police Station.

Picture 4 - Badly worn and damaged chair used by staff at Inverurie Police Station.

Picture 5 - Badly worn office chair located at Larbert Police Station.

Picture 6 - Blocked drains within the grounds of Bathgate Police Station.

Picture 7 - Poor condition of floor coverings at Maryfield Police Station in Dundee

Picture 8 - Poor condition of floor coverings at Grangemouth Police Station

Picture 9 - Outdated and poor condition of toilets at London Road Police Station in Glasgow

Picture 10 - A lack of lockers within Dunfermline Police Station means officers have to store their equipment ineffectively.

Picture 11 and 12 - Leaking pipes at Forfar Police Station has resulted in staff having to create a funnel system out the window using plastic tubing.

Picture 13 - A leaking roof within Maryfield Police Station in Dundee - dangerously close to plug sockets.

Picture 14/15/16 - A leaking roof at Bilston Glen in Midlothian has seen the erection of hazard warning tape.

Picture 17/18 - Mould growing on the walls within the locker room at Stirling Police Station. This was reported in October last year but has not been rectified.

Picture 19 - Peeling wallpaper within the officer toilets at Grangemouth Police Station.

Picture 20 - Comical sign within the toilets at the OSD block in Govan.

Picture 21 - Poor condition of floor coverings within Inverness Police Station.

Picture 22- Rusty police vehicle stationed in Dundee

Picture 23 - Interior view of police vehicle based at Blairgowrie Police Station.

Picture 24 - Worn chair at Dundee Police Station.

Picture 25 - Rusty police vehicle stationed in Dundee.

Picture 26 - Faulty seatbelt within van in L division - the clip section has become separated from the fabric.

Picture 27 - Trip hazard on the stairs within Inverness Police Station.

Picture 28 - Health and safety issue within the toilets at Forfar Police Station.

Picture 29/30/31 - Disused toilets at Dunfermline Police Station have fallen into disarray and used for storage of equipment.

Picture 32 - Faulty window within female officer changing rooms at Dunfermline Police Station.

Picture 33 - Telephone wires held in place by masking tape at Maryfield Police Station in Dundee.

For further information contact Lesley Stevenson at 5 Woodside Place, Glasgow, G3 7QF

Telephone: 0141 332 5234 Mobile: 07825 875743

Email: lesley.stevenson@spf.org.uk