



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: All Media Outlets

Date: 10 May 2019

Subject: Workplace Parking Levy

Speaking in response to the published consultation on the workplace parking levy, which does not provide a specific exemption for police premises, Calum Steele, General Secretary of the Scottish Police Federation said

“It is difficult to comprehend how any politician could support a proposal that increases risks to the safety and security of police officers. The reality of the threat against police officers is real and ought not to be ignored in such a cavalier manner.

It is simply unforgivable that elected representatives could be so blasé over the safety of officers when they themselves aren't slow to call for additional policing presence and assistance over the slightest increase in threat to themselves.

Police Scotland is a national organisation. It was established by Parliament to save money and improve access to service. Since its creation it has had its budget slashed and the service struggles to meet demand. The possibility for councils to take 31 sizeable chunks from an already insufficient budget will also make it more likely police services will retrench even further and our communities will also be less safe as a consequence.

Who could have imagined the Scottish Parliament would have chosen the increasing of risk of harm to police officers and the public alike would be how it chose to commemorate its 20th Anniversary”

ENDS

Note to Editor:

On Friday 16 January 2015 the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) increased the threat level to the police service from substantial to severe: an attack is highly likely. As a result of this, the following directive was issued to all personnel within Police Scotland:

- Must NOT travel in identifiable uniform to and from work / lunch breaks.
- Must NOT wear police lanyards outside the building

- Be aware of parking in the same place and walking to / from a building whilst being easily identifiable as an officer or staff member e.g. carrying marked kit bags or uniform
- Remain vigilant at all times and be aware of your surroundings
- Increased awareness about disclosing your occupation when not on duty

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