



## SCOTTISH POLICE FEDERATION

Established by Act of Parliament

Humza Yousaf MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Justice  
Scottish Government  
Room 1W.11  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Ref: CS/KB

1 August 2019

By email: [CabSecJustice@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecJustice@gov.scot)

Dear Cabinet Secretary

### Prime Minister and Policing Pledges

As you will be aware the new Prime Minister has already made significant commitments in respect of policing; police funding and police numbers with the biggest headline being that he is to commence recruitment of 20,000 police officers forthwith.

Given your frequent public commentary, I know you agree with me that this is long overdue given the crisis an ideologically driven cuts agenda created for policing in England & Wales. I know it also won't be lost on you that an increase of 20,000 officers simply restores police numbers to where they were before the cuts commenced in England and Wales in 2010.

The SPF appreciates that the Scottish Government chose a diametrically different path, not least with the recruitment of 1,000 officers from 2007 and the creation of the Police Service of Scotland (PSoS) in 2013 as a direct alternative to the slash and burn south of the border. The SPF recognises this approach was necessary given the consequential impact of austerity on spending in Scotland.

That being said, it is impossible to conclude anything other than the fact the funding settlements for the police, particularly since the last election, has set the PSoS on a path similar to that you; the wider Scottish Government, and First Minister had been such vocal critics of in the recent past. It would be ironic in the extreme if the Prime Minister is seen to restore police numbers to 2010 levels

whilst the Scottish Government presides over a rapid reduction to 2008 levels over the same period.

It is notable that the once triumphant language (on policing) that was a cornerstone of the Scottish Government's messaging for its first eight years in power is now nowhere to be seen.

I appreciate you will cite that the police revenue budget has been protected in real terms and that the capital budget has increased by 52%. This is however only a partial truth given the revenue budget was reduced by £100 Million prior to that protection being put in place.

The funding settlements prior to that reduction were in themselves deficient as they were predicated on a business case that is now universally accepted as not fully appreciating the scale of challenge integrating the new police service would create. It also contained no provision at all for the exceptional additional demand caused by the raid upturn in the terrorist threat across the world – not least as this only came to be known after the business case was concluded.

We both know the capital allocation is woefully insufficient and will only see the police fleet; estate, and general infrastructure decay even further. A colleague of mine recently described the position on capital as “a 52% increase on hee-haw is just hee-haw and a half.”

The SPF is more than prepared to continue to shine a very public light on where lack of investment is damaging the service to the public and the quality of policing being delivered in Scotland.

Self-evidently the Prime Minister’s pledges present the potential for considerable Barnett Consequentialists and over £100 Million seems to be widely accepted as at the bottom end of what they might be.

I appreciate that discretion on how any dividend ought to be utilised in Scotland is one entirely for the Scottish Government. However, I am sure it will not surprise you that the SPF considers such consequentialists ought to make their way in totality into Scotland’s policing (and not wider justice) “pot.”

Without putting too fine a point on it, we all know that the cuts to policing in England & Wales were ill advised and have probably set police and community relations back for at least a decade. The Scottish Government has now taken steps down that very same road. The Scottish Government basked in the glory of not following the failed England & Wales policing approaches and is kidding itself if it considers it won’t face the same backlash for now pursuing the self-same thing.

Your Government has now been presented with a get out of jail free card. If it chooses not to use it, it will be impossible to conclude anything other than the Government is deliberately pursuing an act of policing vandalism to the detriment of the citizens of Scotland.

It cannot be lost on you that criticism from within the police service towards the Scottish Government is increasing and becoming more vocal and pointed. In the digital age these criticisms are landing in every corner of the country and your government is increasingly seen as having given up on policing. As a general observation no government anywhere performs well in the court of public opinion if it is considered to have abandoned its first responsibility of keeping its citizens safe.

I suspect you are aware of this and you and the wider government are now furiously wrapping yourselves in crime stat triumphalism as the sole measure for policing success. This of course is the same failed messaging a former Home Secretary and Prime Minister used as a fig leaf for the disaster she not only created but presided over.

The public saw through all of it then and we will ensure they do so again.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in early course to discuss this matter

Yours sincerely



**CALUM STEELE**  
General Secretary



F/T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Calum Steele

By Email: [REDACTED]@spf.org.uk

—  
Ar faidhle/Our ref: 201900002989  
30 August 2019

*Dear Calum,*

Thank you for your letter of 1 August 2019, in which you raise a number of issues around the police budget. I acknowledge the importance of these issues and am proud of Scotland's record in this regard.

As we both agree, the recruitment of 20,000 officers in England and Wales in coming years would do no more than reverse the decline in officer numbers that has been apparent there over the past decade. Her Majesty's Treasury will inform the Scottish Government in due course of any consequentials flowing to Scotland from this spending and I am keen to have this clarified.

As you know, in Scotland, we took bold and early action to keep our communities safe in spite of significant budget pressures. We invested in the service and supported reform rather than pursuing the model adopted south of the Border.

I do think it's important to note that we have seen crime fall over the last decade. The recent Scottish Crime and Justice Survey shows that crime has fallen by 43 percent since 2008/09. The survey also shows that one in eight (12.5%) adults in Scotland experienced crime in 2017-18, compared to one in five (20.4%) in 2008-09.

The 2019-20 budget for Police Scotland is now more than £1.2 billion. While the detailed balance of officers, specialists and other police staff is a matter for the Chief Constable, officer numbers in Scotland continue to remain significantly above 2007 levels – in contrast to the reductions in England and Wales.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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In recognition of the range of challenges which Police Scotland is facing, particularly in relation to a no-deal EU Exit, we have also assured the SPA that up to £17 million is available in 2019-20 to cover EU exit-related policing costs.

At the same time, we will continue to press HM Treasury to pay back the £125 million VAT paid by Police Scotland before it reversed this unfair policy in 2018.

Of course the context for policing continues to evolve and I am committed to continuing to engage with policing interests on how we might best respond to new challenges. I look forward to discussing these issues with you when we meet on Monday 2 September.

Best Wishes  
H. Yousaf  
HUMZA YOUSAF

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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**From:** [REDACTED] [spf.org.uk](mailto:spf.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 30 August 2019 14:24  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice <[CabSecJustice@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecJustice@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: meeting between Mr Yousaf and Calum Steele, SPF

[REDACTED]  
Great news thank you!

I've put it in Calum's diary, and I have also forwarded the letter too.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Scottish Police Federation  
5 Woodside Place  
GLASGOW  
G3 7QF  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Website: [www.spf.org.uk](http://www.spf.org.uk)  
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**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot [mailto:[REDACTED] gov.scot] On Behalf Of  
CabSecJustice@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 30 August 2019 14:09  
**To:** [REDACTED] [spf.org.uk](mailto:spf.org.uk); CabSecJustice@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: meeting between Mr Yousaf and Calum Steele, SPF

Hi [REDACTED]

Success! We've booked a table for 12:00 at Rama Thai, 32-34 Dock St, Dundee DD1 3DR on Monday – it's booked under Mr Yousaf's name.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Office of Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Scottish Government, Room 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [REDACTED] |  
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**From:** [REDACTED]@spf.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 August 2019 11:33  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** meeting between Mr Yousaf and Calum Steele, SPF  
**Importance:** High

Morning [REDACTED]

Tried to call you re the email below, can you give me a call back on [REDACTED] when you are free.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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Scottish Police Federation  
5 Woodside Place  
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[www.itswhatwedo.org.uk](http://www.itswhatwedo.org.uk)

**From:** <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>  
**Date:** 28 August 2019 at 10:27:46 BST  
**To:** <calum.steele@spf.org.uk>, <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: meeting between Mr Yousaf and Calum Steele, SPF

Hi Calum,

Apologies for the delay in coming back to you, I checked with Mr Yousaf and he's suggested the 12:00 (on Monday, 02/09) at the Apex Hotel in Dundee – link below:

<https://www.apexhotels.co.uk/apex-city-quay-hotel-spa/metro-bar-and-brasserie>

Mr Yousaf will be attending the SPF North Area Committee meeting from 14:00 and the Apex is only a 4 minute walk from the venue so would work well if that works for you?

Let me know if this is okay for you and if so, would you like me to book a table or would you prefer to book?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Office of Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Scottish Government, Room 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [REDACTED] |  
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**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Justice**  
**Sent:** 28 August 2019 10:28  
**To:** 'Calum Steele' <calum.steele@spf.org.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: meeting between Mr Yousaf and Calum Steele, SPF

Hi Calum,

Apologies for the delay in coming back to you, I checked with Mr Yousaf and he's suggested the 12:00 (on Monday, 02/09) at the Apex Hotel in Dundee – link below:

<https://www.apexhotels.co.uk/apex-city-quay-hotel-spa/metro-bar-and-brasserie>

Mr Yousaf will be attending the SPF North Area Committee meeting from 14:00 and the Apex is only a 4 minute walk from the venue so would work well if that works for you?

Let me know if this is okay for you and if so, would you like me to book a table or would you prefer to book?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Office of Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Scottish Government, Room 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [REDACTED] |  
CabSecJustice@gov.scot | www.gov.scot |

**From:** Calum Steele <calum.steele@spf.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 15 August 2019 14:48  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: meeting between Mr Yousaf and Calum Steele, SPF

[REDACTED]  
Ideal

Thanks

C

Calum Steele  
General Secretary  
Scottish Police Federation  
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G3 7QF  
Tel: 0141 332 5234  
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**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot [mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot] **On Behalf Of**  
**CabSecJustice@gov.scot**  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2019 2:47 PM  
**To:** Calum Steele <calum.steele@spf.org.uk>; CabSecJustice@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: meeting between Mr Yousaf and Calum Steele, SPF

Thanks Calum.

I'll put this in Mr Yousaf's diary now. We would prefer to arrange this lunch in Dundee. I will be in touch to confirm the venue in due course.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Office of Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Scottish Government, Room 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [REDACTED] |  
CabSecJustice@gov.scot | www.gov.scot |

**From:** Calum Steele <calum.steele@spf.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 15 August 2019 14:34  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: meeting between Mr Yousaf and Calum Steele, SPF

That works.

I can meet either in Glasgow or Dundee (whichever is most convenient)

C

Calum Steele  
General Secretary  
Scottish Police Federation  
5 Woodside Place  
Glasgow  
Scotland  
G3 7QF  
Tel: 0141 332 5234  
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[www.itswhatwedo.org.uk](http://www.itswhatwedo.org.uk)

On 15 Aug 2019, at 14:31, "CabSecJustice@gov.scot" <CabSecJustice@gov.scot> wrote:

Calum,

My apologies, Monday 2 September.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office of Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Scottish Government, Room 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [REDACTED] |  
[CabSecJustice@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecJustice@gov.scot) | [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot) |

**From:** Calum Steele <[calum.steele@spf.org.uk](mailto:calum.steele@spf.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 15 August 2019 14:27  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice <[CabSecJustice@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecJustice@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: meeting between Mr Yousaf and Calum Steele, SPF

[REDACTED]

The 12 September is a Thursday?

On 15 Aug 2019, at 14:17, "CabSecJustice@gov.scot" <CabSecJustice@gov.scot> wrote:

Calum,

Thank you for your rapid response. I've had another look in Mr Yousaf's diary and I could arrange this on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September, at 12:00 in Glasgow. Would that be more suitable?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office of Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Scottish Government, Room 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | [REDACTED] |  
[CabSecJustice@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecJustice@gov.scot) | [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot) |

**From:** Calum Steele <calum.steele@spf.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 15 August 2019 12:48  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: meeting between Mr Yousaf and Calum Steele, SPF

[REDACTED]

I'm afraid that time and date doesn't work as it clashes with a statutory meeting of the Joint Central Committee.

Calum.

Calum Steele  
General Secretary  
Scottish Police Federation  
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On 15 Aug 2019, at 12:19, "CabSecJustice@gov.scot" <CabSecJustice@gov.scot> wrote:

Good Afternoon Calum,

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice has asked me to arrange working lunch with you and your colleagues, my understanding is that you've had a conversation with John McFarlane about it. Due to Mr Yousaf's extremely limited availability, I can only offer you next Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August between 12:45 and 14:30 in Glasgow. I would be grateful if you could confirm if this is suitable for you and select a venue in the city centre.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards,