

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 24 March 2022 16:11
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Scottish Sun enquiry / response

Good afternoon,

please see below the enquiry for your background and our response which we shared yesterday with [Redacted] and then fielded to the journalist.

We will share any further background and messaging if / where this is developed.

Regards
[Redacted]

ENQUIRY

We are working on a story concerning Chief Officer Martin Blunden, seeking comment and guidance from you.

It's been brought to our attention that Mr Blunden is the subject of an investigation into bullying and that he is currently not in the workplace. We're told he's working from home while enquiries are being carried out, but you'll probably be able to clarify what exactly his current status is.

We understand a Dept Asst Chief Officer made the complaint in relation to bullying harassment and victimisation.

We understand the matter was raised with the chief, strategic leadership team and members of the fireboard.

We understand an investigation team has been appointed to look into the matter.

We understand a number of people have been recorded as part of the submission and that a process is underway to reach out to them. This comes following a number of other senior people leaving for other jobs and sources claiming there's a "toxic culture" at the service.

Can you please look into this matter and provide us with a response by the close of play today (Fri).

SFRS RESPONSE

Chair of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board, Dr Kirsty Darwent, said: "We take any allegation against staff members extremely seriously and have robust procedures in place to ensure complaints are fully investigated. Any complaint would be considered confidential while being progressed."

Ends

[Redacted]
Media and External Communications Manager
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
[Redacted]



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