

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 25 March 2022 17:23
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Press query: Scottish Sun

For information

From[Redacted]
Sent: 25 March 2022 16:59
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Press query: Scottish Sun

Hi [Redacted]

Thanks for looking into this. [Redacted] here from the Scottish Sun. I'm seeking a response this evening, please.

We are going to run a story about Martin Blunden, the Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service being on gardening leave as a result of a bullying and harassment investigation.

We understand the complaint was filed by a member of Mr Blunden's senior team who sent it to the chief, the strategic leadership team and every member of the fireboard.

We are not planning on naming the complainant.

We understand Dr Kirsty Darwent from the SFRS board would have had to bring this to the attention of Ministers, due to Mr Blunden's senior position.

We understand an HR consultancy firm Dorothy McKinney Ltd was brought in to carry out the investigation. I understand the process also involved Marie MacDonald of Miller Samuel Hill Brown.

We understand the matter would have been brought to the attention of the Minister who would have to sign it off. I understand another relevant body is the sponsorship unit which acts as liaison between the Scottish Government and the fire service.

Can you please confirm the investigation process has been invoked and what your involvement in the matter is.

The fact that Scotland's top firefighter is effectively suspended is of great concern. What is your view on the matter?

Can you also please address bullying concerns in the SFRS.

Kind regards,
[Redacted]

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