

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 25 March 2022 19:08
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: response - Scottish Sun enquiry

For completeness these are our issued lines

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“SFRS takes any allegation against staff members extremely seriously and such issues are entirely a matter for the SFRS Board.”

[Redacted]
From: [Redacted]
Sent: 25 March 2022 17:12
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: response - Scottish Sun enquiry

[Redacted]
The Sun have just approached us for comment.

We intend to go back with:

- This is a matter for the SFRS board.

Thanks, [Redacted]

[Redacted]
Communications Team Leader
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 24 March 2022 11:24
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: response - Scottish Sun enquiry

Thanks, [Redacted] – any update appreciated.

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



Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 23 March 2022 18:05
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: response - Scottish Sun enquiry

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of SFRS. Do not click links or open attachments unless you are certain the email is genuine and know the content is safe.

Many thanks [Redacted] for sending that across - we haven't had a query from the Sun so far.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Communications Team Leader
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 23 March 2022 17:02
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: response - Scottish Sun enquiry

Hi [Redacted],

Further to discussion, please see below the enquiry for your background and our response which we will shortly be fielding to the journalist.

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]



Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

E-mail confidentiality notice

The information contained in this message is confidential and intended for the addressee only. The unauthorised use, disclosure, copying or alteration of this message is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please reply to the sender immediately and delete the message.

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

E-mail confidentiality notice

The information contained in this message is confidential and intended for the addressee only. The unauthorised use, disclosure, copying or alteration of this message is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please reply to the sender immediately and delete the message.