

From: Redacted
Sent: 31 March 2022 08:11
To: Redacted
Cc: Redacted
Subject: RE: publication: Scottish Sun enquiry / response

Good morning,

To update, please see additional coverage below with BBC, at present, confirming Ross Haggart assuming operational responsibility.

- [BBC](#)
- [Daily Mail](#)
- [STV](#)

Redacted



Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

From: redacted
Sent: 30 March 2022 20:51
To: redacted
Cc: redacted
Subject: RE: publication: Scottish Sun enquiry / response

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.

That's great redacted - thanks for letting me know.

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: 30 March 2022 20:49
To: Redacted
Cc: Redacted
Subject: RE: publication: Scottish Sun enquiry / response

Hi Redacted,

We have issued our below for guidance note to the following:

- Scottish Sun
- BBC
- Daily Mail
- Scotsman
- STV

For guidance: To maintain public safety, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has a continuous command structure in place to ensure resilience in the management of our operational response. In the absence of the Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer Ross Haggart assumes operational responsibility for the Service.

Let me know if there is anything else you require.

Redacted

Redacted



Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

From: Redacted
Sent: 30 March 2022 20:38
To: Redacted
Cc: Redacted
Subject: RE: publication: Scottish Sun enquiry / response

Of course **redacted** – **redacted** is issuing now and will confirm where it has gone asap.

Thanks

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: 30 March 2022 20:29
To: Redacted
Cc: Redacted
Subject: RE: publication: Scottish Sun enquiry / response

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**

If you can let me know when sent - I'll confirm that to the BBC as well, who have asked us who currently heads the fire service.

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: 30 March 2022 20:25
To: Redacted
Cc: Redacted
Subject: RE: publication: Scottish Sun enquiry / response

Hi all,

Please see our additional lines below which we will issue to Daily Mail, BBC and STV this evening.

Thanks

Redacted

To maintain public safety, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has a continuous command structure in place to ensure resilience in the management of our operational response. In the absence of the Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer Ross Haggart assumes operational responsibility for the Service.

From: Redacted
Sent: 30 March 2022 17:25
To: Redacted
Cc: Redacted
Subject: RE: publication: Scottish Sun enquiry / response

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.

Colleagues,

Just to flag we have now also been approached by the Daily Mail, STV and the BBC.

Thanks,

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: 30 March 2022 17:11
To: Redacted
Cc: Redacted
Subject: RE: publication: Scottish Sun enquiry / response

Thanks, redacted – please see below a summary outline.

Two pieces of publication:

[Scotsman](#)
[Scottish Sun](#)

Media approaches also received by:

- STV
- BBC
- Daily Mail

SFRS external statement: No update

Redacted



Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

From: Redacted
Sent: 30 March 2022 15:45
To: Redacted
Cc: Redacted
Subject: RE: publication: Scottish Sun enquiry / response

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.

Hi Redacted,

Thanks for letting us know. You may be aware that the Scotsman has also approached SG but we have simply repeated our agreed response.

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: 30 March 2022 15:38
To: Redacted>
Cc: Redacted
Subject: publication: Scottish Sun enquiry / response

Good afternoon,

To sight you, this story has just been published by The Sun:
<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/scottish-news/8641902/martin-blunden-firefighter-probe-bullying/>

We will share any updates to our statement and please let me know if there is anything you may otherwise require.

Redacted



Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

From: Redacted
Sent: 24 March 2022 16:11
To: Redacted
Cc: 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



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.

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.

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.

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.

From: Redacted
Sent: 30 March 2022 16:58
To: Redacted
Cc: Redacted
Subject: CAB SEC AWARENESS - Martin Blunden suspended

Good afternoon PO, Cab Sec,

We've been approached by The Scotsman, STV, SWNS, and Daily Mail seeking our response to SFRS chief officer Martin Blunden being suspended.

For awareness, we have issued the below cleared response.

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.”

Many thanks
Redacted

From: redacted
Sent: 30 March 2022 14:33
To: redacted
Subject: Martin Blunden suspended

Hi redacted,

Redacted

Best wishes,
Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: 24 March 2022 16:14
To: Redacted
Cc: Redacted
Subject: FW: Scottish Sun enquiry / response

Redacted,

For information and building on the "as SFRS have said" line.

Redacted

From: Redacted
Sent: 24 March 2022 16:11
To: Redacted>
Cc: 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



Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

From: Redacted

Sent: 04 August 2022 15:46

To: Redacted

Subject: Comms Call - 04/08

Hi all,

Please see below note from the comms call this afternoon:

- SFRS have received a media query regarding the former Chief. Martin Blunden has changed his Twitter name which has been picked up.
- Redacted

Kind regards,

Redacted

Redacted

St Andrews House

The Scottish Government



From: Redacted
Sent: 01 September 2022 18:36
To: Redacted
Cc: Redacted
Subject: Redacted
Sensitivity: Redacted

Minister for Community Safety

Further to the updates below SFRS have this evening confirmed they have issued a communication to their staff regarding the Chief Officer. They have also said they will issue the lines to the Daily Mail and have posted the statement on their website.

SFRS MEDIA STATEMENT:

Chair of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board, Dr Kirsty Darwent, said: "I can confirm that Martin Blunden has stepped down as Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. As has been previously reported, Mr Blunden was subject to a formal investigation into conduct allegations.

"Due to confidentiality, I am unable to comment any further.

"We expect the highest standards of our staff and take any allegation regarding their conduct extremely seriously.

"We have robust procedures in place to ensure complaints are investigated in line with our clear policies and procedures."

Ends

Guidance note: Ross Haggart will continue as Interim Chief Officer and Stuart Stevens as Interim Deputy Chief Officer until the recruitment process for a new Chief Officer is concluded.

Redacted