



## SCOTTISH POLICE FEDERATION

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### MEDIA RELEASE

**The Scottish Police Federation represents all police officers in the ranks of constable, sergeant, inspector and chief inspector, police cadets and special constables; over 18,500 people, 98% of all police officers in Scotland.**

**To: All Outlets**

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020**

**Subject: Missed opportunity by Lord Advocate to tackle deliberate infecting of Police Officers with COVID19**

Revised Guidance from the Lord Advocate in relation to the liberation of persons from Police Custody was [published](#) on 1st April 2020.

These Lord Advocate's Guidelines direct Police Scotland on the approach to take regarding individuals who are in Police custody having been arrested during the period of disruption caused by COVID-19 or Coronavirus.

The Guidelines detail circumstances that need to be considered during the pandemic but goes on to specifically highlight circumstances such as Domestic Abuse as being worthy of particular consideration.

As Police Officers join health professionals on the frontline of this crisis, a disturbing trend has seen them being deliberately coughed on or spat at them in an attempt to infect.

Responding to publication of the Lord Advocates Guidance, David Hamilton, Chair of the Scottish Police Federation said,

"It is sickening that people resort to this kind of malice against those that are trying to protect society. This horrific conduct threatens the safety of not just our officers, but their families and colleagues too.

The absence of specific direction from the Lord Advocate to keep such persons in custody was a missed opportunity to show that society will not tolerate such attacks on its police officers. We need only look down South to see how offenders are being quickly and severely punished by the courts and we urge the Lord Advocate to match England's stance and review his guidance."

### ENDS

#### Notes to editors

1. The Lord Advocates Revised Guidance can be found at <https://spf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/LAs-Guidelines-on-Liberation-Coronavirus-Publication-Version-02-010420.pdf>
2. Media Photograph of David Hamilton available at <https://spf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/David-Hamilton.jpg>

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