



## SCOTTISH POLICE FEDERATION

5 Woodside Place, Glasgow, G3 7QF

### 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: News Editors**  
**Date: 16 April 2020**  
**Subject: Masks Issued to Police do not Provide Sufficient Covid19 Protection**

Speaking in response to the Police Service of Scotland issuing masks to officers, David Hamilton, Chairman of the Scottish Police Federation said

*"The SPF welcomes that some much needed FFP3 Masks are making their way to officers. These masks have been subject to rigorous scientific scrutiny over many years and their efficacy and appropriateness is not in doubt. They will undoubtedly be welcomed by our members and we applaud the considerable efforts of the service to secure them, train officers in their use, and issue them.*

*The demand for PPE amongst our members is understandably high and whilst we note the service is now able to issue type 2 surgical masks, these will not provide any meaningful protection to officers.*

*The [advice of our expert panel](#) means that the Scottish Police Federation cannot endorse their use as PPE. Our panel is unanimous in its views that the primary aim of the surgical mask is to prevent the wearer from infecting anyone else; and that they offer little effective barrier to the wearer from contracting the virus. In short the scientific case that these masks can be used as PPE against COVID19 has yet to be made.*

*FFP3 masks offer the minimum standard of PPE that the Scottish Police Federation recognise."*

**ENDS**

#### **Note to Editors:**

A panel of scientific and medical experts was established by the Scottish Police Federation (SPF) on April 6 to provide specialist advice on risks and safeguards for police staff during the coronavirus pandemic.

The panel's professional expert members are Professor Sir Harry Burns, Professor George Crooks OBE and Professor Hugh Pennington CBE. The Police Federation members are Calum Steele and David Kennedy and the legal member is Professor Peter Watson of PBW Law.

For further information on the panel: <https://spf.org.uk/scotlands-leading-medical-and-scientific-experts-to-study-covid-19-threat-to-police-officers/>