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POLICE STAFF COUNCIL (PSC)

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**To: Police and Crime Commissioner (copy Chief Exec & Treasurer)
Chief Constables (copy Force Personnel/HR Manager/Payroll Manager)**

**cc: PSC Members
Scotland and MPS (for information only)**

20 November 2019

JOINT CIRCULAR NO.104 – POLITICAL RESTRICTION

Dear Sir/Madam

This circular provides guidance on the role which police staff, as private citizens, can play in the forthcoming General Election and in the local and PCC elections to be held in May 2020.

Unless police staff occupy a politically restricted role forces are advised not to limit the role that individual police staff can play in elections.

Staff should therefore not be prohibited from standing as a candidate, campaigning for, or supporting, particular candidates for election either in or outside, their force area.

Forces should expect police staff to remain entirely politically neutral in their approach to elections when acting in their official capacity at work. However, this approach should not be extended to political activity in the member of staff's own free time, unless under politically restricted roles.

While police staff are free to be members of political parties and to be active in those parties as private citizens, Forces should be made aware that PSC circular 39, (9 February 2006), endorses the ACPO (NPCC) restriction on, and disciplinary consequences of, any member of police staff being an active member of the BNP, National Front or Combat 18. Active campaign work on behalf of an election candidate from one of these organisations would therefore render a member of police staff liable to disciplinary action.

Yours sincerely



Ben Priestley
Trade Union Side Secretary



David Algie
Employers' Side Secretariat