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POLICE STAFF COUNCIL

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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)**

27 April 2015

JOINT CIRCULAR NO. 83

Dear Sir/Madam

This circular provides guidance on the role which police staff, as private citizens, can play in the forthcoming general election.

Forces are advised not to limit the role that individual police staff can play in the general election. Staff should not be prohibited from campaigning for, or supporting, particular candidates for election in their force area. The existing police regulation only applies to police officers who are restricted from such political activity.

Forces should expect police staff to remain entirely politically neutral in their approach to the general election 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 he or she is employed in a politically restricted post, as defined by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It is expected that staff occupying such roles will have been informed of this restriction at the time of their appointment, or subsequently, if the post became restricted in this way following appointment.

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 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

Sarah Messenger
Employers' Side Secretary

Ben Priestley
Trade Union Side Secretary