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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)**

28 April 2017

JOINT CIRCULAR NO. 93

Dear Sir/Madam

Political Restriction

This circular provides guidance on the role which police staff, as private citizens, can play in the forthcoming elections on 4 May and 8 June 2017.

The role that police staff can play in elections, and democratic life generally, is set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Unless police staff occupy a politically restricted role, as defined as 'specified' or 'sensitive' by the 2011 legislation, forces are advised not to limit the role that individual police staff can play in the:


- Local Elections;
- Mayoral Elections in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley, West Midlands and West of England;
- General Election.

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. Police staff are not covered by the legislation which restricts police officers from such political activity.

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 covered by the statute referred to above.

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



Sarah Messenger
Employers' Side Secretary