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**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

**Prostitution  
Policy**

<b>Owning Department:</b>	SCD - Public Protection
<b>Version Number:</b>	1.00 (Publication Scheme)
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**Compliance Record**

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**Version Control Table**

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V1.00	Initial authorised version	28/04/2016

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## **Prostitution Policy**

The Police Service of Scotland, (hereafter referred to as Police Scotland), is committed to keeping people safe and protecting those most at risk within our communities. It is recognised that many males and females involved in prostitution are there as a result of force or a perception of limited alternatives. It is also acknowledged that other persons may have freely chosen to be involved in prostitution. Notwithstanding, Police Scotland will robustly police those who control, abuse, exploit or coerce others for the purposes of prostitution.

Serious and Organised Crime of this nature requires focused activity around the 4 key objectives of Divert, Disrupt, Deter and Detect. Although enforcement is essential, such concentration on only one aspect of the issue may deliver temporary respite, but will not deliver a sustainable solution. Police Scotland will therefore focus on the:

- **Protection of individuals and communities from threat, risk and harm, including exploitation** caused by prostitution
- **Investigation of those who abuse, exploit or coerce and the investigation and disruption of organised criminal activity** associated with prostitution through effective and innovative use of current legislation
- **Support or creation of effective partnerships** with other agencies, organisations or individuals which will help minimise or eliminate the harm that can be caused through prostitution to individuals or communities
- **Support research and promote debate with policymakers** with a view to creating policy and law which makes it safer for individuals involved in on and off street prostitution, easier to investigate and successfully prosecute those who abuse, exploit or coerce victims through prostitution and which support the diversion from prosecution or exit from prostitution by individual victims

Police Scotland recognises the importance of effective partnerships between police, local authorities, health, education and other statutory organisations along with non-governmental organisations and groups who work with individuals involved in prostitution. Societal attitude towards prostitution is diverse and covers a wide range of beliefs and opinion, which must be acknowledged through engagement and collaboration. Essential to this policy is the aim of making Scotland a hostile environment for serious and organised crime with the reduction of harm in line with the following overarching principles:

- The safety and well-being of **individuals**
- The safety and well-being of **communities**

This policy is underpinned by Police Scotland's Strategic Directive and both of these documents must be read collaboratively to inform our operational response to prostitution.