Potential reduction in the number of Police and Fire Services

Police Scotland has been put under significant pressure strain due to sustained real-term cuts.

I share your concern about the impact these are having.

Police Scotland's deputy chief officer David Page has warned that cuts could result in more than 2,000 officers being lost by 2028. He has also cast doubt on Humza Yousaf's pledge to give all officers body worn cameras - which are standard issue in every other UK force.

Officer numbers are at their lowest level in 15 years and future budget settlements seem likely to make the situation even worse. The Scottish Conservatives are committed to giving Police Scotland the resources they need to keep our streets safe.

Douglas Ross recently warned Mr Yousaf that proposed SNP budget cuts would have a devastating impact.

Our party has also pledged to increase officer numbers by 1,000. This would help to alleviate the burden on those who say they are struggling to fulfil their duties.

There are similar issues with the SNP Government's funding of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). Over the past decade, the number of firefighters has reduced by more than 1,000. Cuts have also resulted in the 'temporary' removal of 10 fire appliances. All of this has resulted in unacceptable worsening of response times. The SFRS capital investment backlog now stands at closer to £800 million according to the Fire Brigades Union.

Due to SNP ministers' long-term neglect, many fire stations lack necessities, including showers and decontamination facilities.

The Scottish Conservatives have called on the SNP to provide proper investment for estate maintenance and vehicle provision. If ministers are serious about the safety and wellbeing of the people of Scotland, they must properly fund our police and fire services. The fact the SNP Government underspent its budget for the last financial year by £244 million demonstrates that they are not using all of the resources at their disposal to support our public services.