Merging the British Transport Police with Police Scotland is a huge mistake, the railway has had a dedicated police service for many years for very good reasons.

BTP Officers understand the workings of the railway and the importance of keeping it moving, whether that be from Anti-social Behaviour with travelling football fans, Trespassing, Fatalities. Police Scotland Officers do not understand the workings of the railway as in turn BTP Officers do not understand the workings of say a RTC on the motorway, it is the skills and knowledge of the officers that is required and it is better as a single stand-alone force covering the entire rail network throughout Britain.

Terms and conditions are entirely different between BTP and Police Scotland where as Police Scotland officers are Crown Servants and BTP officers are employees, BTP has a separate (Private pension fund).

The Scottish Government has said that BTP Officers would be protected with regards terms and conditions but in truth this is NOT the case as BTP Officers would be entitled to Redundancy and Resettlement which Police Scotland can ill afford.

Many Officers would leave and not be forced into a merger with a Police service they did not join thereby Police Scotland could not ensure that specialist skills, knowledge and numbers would be maintained.

Crime on the railway is reduced year on year and the BTP are one of the best performing Police services in the UK.

The DCC of the BTP hit the nail on the head when this was debated when he said “if it’s not broke what are we trying to fix”

Sid Trotter
23 December 2016