

Correspondence to the Convener from Community Trade Union, 2 July 2025

Many thanks for your email and apologies for not responding sooner. In the absence of Steve Farrell I wish to comment as follows

Community has welcomed the increased funding for the SCCPES contract currently run by Geo Amey which led to an increased level of pay for PCO's within the contract. We believe this has had a positive impact with staffing levels having increased partly as a result of this uplift. We also take the view that this has improved staff morale. This uplift has eased some of the strains impacting Community members and Geo Amey employees by going some way to reducing excessive work hours. We continue to negotiate increased levels of pay with Geo Amey for 2025.

For information It is hoped that any increase in pay in 2025 will take PCO's considerably over the Scottish Living Wage.

Community is concerned that Geo Amey having made clear their intentions not to rebid for the new contract and hence the loss of wide-ranging experience will culminate in a "race to the bottom" of other potential providers which could adversely affect Community members. As a result, we have written to Angela Constance MSP and Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs seeking a meeting to discuss these matters.

I hope this assists.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Axtell

Senior Operational Support

Community trade union