



## Media Release

### International Association of Women Police – Officer of the Year, 2017 Constable Tracey Gunn, Police Scotland, UK

Constable Tracey Gunn has over 22 years policing service, is married to a fellow officer and has a 10-year-old daughter. During her policing career, she has worked in a variety of operational uniformed roles including community policing and as a member of the mounted section.

She describes her latest role, as Police Liaison Officer at Her Majesty's Prison, Edinburgh, as, "being the most amazing and rewarding work I have ever done". She works closely with the prison service to disrupt and deter the smuggling of illegal items into the prison, interacting with prisoners' families during visits, with a particular focus on the children and their attitudes towards the criminal justice system. Due to her tenacity and creative thinking she convinced a group of high profile prisoners to work with her, between them developing a booklet, 'My daddy and the police', which she has utilized to break down barriers between the police and children, by gaining sponsorship from various sources she was able to print and distribute the booklet; not content with that, she has now also developed an early intervention film with the help of prisoners and their families, to be played in Young Offender Institutes, Secure Units, Community Centres, and Secondary Schools.

Mark McDonald, Scottish Government Minister for Childcare and Early Years described the booklet as "a groundbreaking scheme in Scotland that other parts of the world might look to copy", Colin McConnell Chief Executive Scottish Police Service commented, "The booklet aided working with the most impressionable part of society, children."

Constable Gunn created the role of Prison Liaison Officer in 2009, the first of its kind in Scotland, her innovative practices have now been adopted at other prison establishments. At the recent Police Scotland Force Excellence Awards PC Gunn received the "Police Officer of the Year" Award for the outstanding work she has done. Constable Gunn's nominator for this award describes her as "a trendsetter having been the driving force behind the creation of the Police Liaison Officer position at HMP Edinburgh".

Constable Gunn will be honoured at a formal luncheon during the IAWP's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference due to take place between 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017, in Cairns, Australia.

IAWP President Margaret Shorter, "For the past 100 years, IAWP has promoted the role of women in policing. IAWP champions change to enable women to play their full part in delivering an inclusive service to their local communities. Without our annual recognition programme many phenomenal women and men would go unrecognized for their efforts".

The **Mission** of the I.A.W.P. is: To strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally.

**Vision:** IAWP envisions a world where police reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and where human rights are protected.

For more information about I.A.W.P. visit [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

For further information on the 2017 recognition programme or permissions please contact Jane Townsley, [media@iawp.org](mailto:media@iawp.org)