

RECORD VIEW

Crack down on video nasties

TECH giants like Facebook and YouTube have been too slow in clamping down on the kind of shockingly violent videos that are regularly uploaded to their websites.

The platforms have invested in ever-increasing numbers of online moderators over the years but it's clearly not enough to stem the flow.

Most people with a smartphone will at some point have inadvertently stumbled across a video nasty that has been shared thousands of times on social media.

Humza Yousaf is right to call for the UK Government to include tough sanctions in the online harm legislation currently being considered by MPs.

Internet regulation is a reserved issue, meaning Holyrood can do little other than raise awareness on the subject.

The Record has led the way in calling for action to end the sharing of clips involving youngsters attacking their fellow classmates at school.

It's a horrifying phenomenon that has caught on.

MSPs again raised the Record's Our Kids ... Our Future campaign, which has put the issue to the forefront of political debate.

Part of the problem is the lack of opportunities for kids outside school.

Youth clubs and community facilities have closed at an alarming rate over the last decade thanks to Tory austerity.

The Scottish Government can help by ensuring funding is made available. But only Westminster can tackle the tech giants.

Ministers must take tough action to stop them profiting from violent video clips.

The old excuses simply won't wash anymore.

END THE MENACE - PAGE 8

Blacklist blast

IT is shocking that hard-working ambulance crews have been placed on a "blacklist" if they change their blood-splattered uniforms during their shifts.

They have been criticised for doing their job properly. It is essential that uniforms are changed and that the ambulances are cleaned so the next patient does not become infected.

If they did not do this, patients would be at risk. These workers saved thousands of lives during the pandemic and deserve to be treated better.

They are right to be angry. Many staff members found the list to be "humiliating" and GMB Scotland organiser Karen Leonard is right that it is a "bullying tactic" from bosses.

The fact that a manager took down the list and apologised afterwards shows that they know it was wrong.

But it should not have happened in the first place.

Scottish Ambulance Service bosses should value their workers rather than labelling them as "offenders".

WORKERS 'HUMILIATED'

Ambulance crews' fury at 'naughty list'

EXCLUSIVE
BY **VIVIENNE AITKEN**
Health Editor

HERO ambulance crews have been placed on a management "blacklist" if they change blood-splattered uniforms during shifts.

A list of "regular offenders" was posted at one Scots ambulance base, sparking fury among staff, who have backed a vote of no confidence in bosses by the GMB trade union.

The blacklist – branded "the naughty list" by staff – was quickly removed but not before paramedics and ambulance technicians had spotted more than 30 named people classed as "regular offenders".

A cover note attached stated: "We have been logging staff making themselves unavailable during the last hour of their shift and the management team have been keeping a log of regular offenders."

It was put on the board on April 5. One staff member said: "We only found out this list existed because a manager put it on a notice board by mistake. They took it down as soon as they realised and apologised but the problem is not that the list was made public but that it exists at all."

"What do they want people to do when their uniforms are unwearable? Go out on calls for the rest of their shift covered in blood?"

One of the hazards of the job is that uniforms can get covered in blood or other body fluids while attending to very sick patients and vehicles can also become contaminated.

It is essential uniforms are changed and ambulances cleaned to prevent the next patient becoming infected.

In order to do this, crews have to return to base and make themselves "unavailable" for picking up a patient.



ANGER Ambulance staff have backed a vote of no confidence in bosses over list

Registry of 'offenders' changing blood-stained clothes is blasted

This often happens during the final hour of their shift.

Unions say the blacklist is one of many problems facing staff.

GMB Scotland organiser Karen Leonard said: "A couple of members on the list said they were absolutely humiliated this was put up and feel it is a bullying tactic to make sure

issues like carrying over holidays are among other grievances to have triggered the "no-confidence" vote.

The union has written to the outgoing SAS chief executive Pauline Howie warning that if the issues are not addressed with urgency and commitment, the GMB will withdraw from crucial workplace partnership arrangements.

A Scottish Ambulance spokesperson said: "The welfare and well-being of our workforce is a top priority. We continue to do everything we can to support our staff."

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: "Employment issues are a matter for the employee and health board. All staff should be encouraged to speak up and report any concerns they have."

“They feel it’s a bullying tactic to make crews work on GMB SCOTLAND’S KAREN LEONARD ON BLACKLIST”

crews don't make themselves unavailable and just work on. But that risks infecting other patients."

Labour's health spokeswoman Jackie Baillie said the blacklist was "an appalling way to treat our hardworking paramedics". Curbs on



WARNING Caroline Lamb

NHS health boards face cash stress

BY **CRAIG PATON**

THE chief executive of NHS Scotland has said she has "no doubt" health boards will have to deal with financial challenges this year.

Caroline Lamb pledged to work alongside regional health boards to identify cuts that can be made to ease pressure.

The concern was compounded by Richard McCallum, the Scottish Government's director for health finance and governance, who said there is a "significant financial challenge" on the health service.

Lamb's comments come in the wake of a stark warning from NHS Dumfries and Galloway chief executive Jeff Ace, who told a Holyrood committee his board faces a deficit this year and he "technically can't afford one in 10 of (the) workforce".

Appearing before the Public Audit Committee yesterday, Lamb said: "I have no doubt that many boards are looking at a very, very challenging position going into 2023-24. That said, we would expect – as we did last year – to work with boards through the course of this year."

"We have a national sustainability and value programme, which Richard may want to say more about, in terms of how we're working with boards to support all of our NHS boards to identify savings and efficiencies in order to manage that through to a better position."

McCallum added: "We do go into 2023-24 with a significant financial challenge that we all need to work through and that is a reality of those system pressures."



APPROACH Humza Yousaf

YOUSAF'S MARINE PROTECTION U-TURN

HUMZA Yousaf has insisted he won't impose controversial marine protection plans on communities that "vehemently oppose" them.

The Scottish Government has proposed creating highly protected marine areas (HPMAs) in at least 10 per cent of Scotland's waters, prompting concerns and outcry from those in rural areas, opposition politicians and some within his own party.

The First Minister and Net Zero Secretary Mairi McAllan have said

BY **CRAIG PATON**

such zones will not be foisted on communities that do not want them.

But challenged by Scottish Tory leader Douglas Ross during First Minister's Questions yesterday, Yousaf refused to define a community, or what level of discontent would mean they can avoid becoming part of an HPMAs.

Ross asked: "Can he define what he means in this case by community and what level of opposition would be considered 'vehemently opposed'?"

Yousaf said: "What we've made absolutely clear is that this Government will not impose HPMAs on any community that vehemently opposes them."

"In terms of what mechanism we will use – how we define community in terms of opposition or, indeed, consent – that will be something we will engage with the community."

The First Minister added he would "not apologise" for attempting to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss.