



## **PRESS INFORMATION - Issued 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**HEADLINE: Sign Now and Central Scotland Police work in Partnership on Hate Crime**

Central Scotland Police has signalled its commitment to equality within the communities it serves by having key information on hate crime and how to report offences relayed via a innovative British Sign Language (BSL) video in partnership with a local company.

The Force and Grangemouth-based Sign Now have teamed up to ensure the message is received by as wide an audience as possible by having information translated by an interpreter for the deaf in an online clip.

The Force recently published a Combined Equality Scheme to ensure the Force engages with all members of the public and that communities have full access to policing services.

Grangemouth based company Sign Now, an award winning business established by two profoundly deaf people, created the video. Andrew Thomson, Director of Sign Now has created a web site Sign Tube dedicated to the deaf community and provided the translation and hosting of the video on behalf of Central Scotland Police.

Andrew stated, "Hate Crime is an under reported crime and we are proud to assist the Force in spreading the word on how to identify and report such crimes."

Deputy Chief Constable, Iain MacLeod added, "We wish to engage with all sections of society and are proud that this is one of the safest in which to live, work or visit in the UK. We are committed to providing as best a service as possible to all members of the community we serve, regardless of faith, race, disability, gender, sexuality or age. Part of that commitment is ensuring that everyone understands how to access policing services and how to report a crime to us in order that the appropriate action can be taken and support provided. We are only too delighted to participate in this trial project."

**The video can be viewed on our web site – [www.sign-tube.com/video/783/Central-Scotland-Police--Hate-Crime](http://www.sign-tube.com/video/783/Central-Scotland-Police--Hate-Crime)**

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