

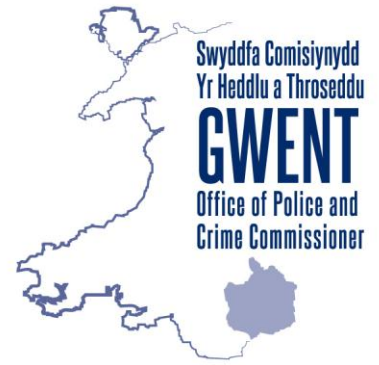
**Swyddfa Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu, Gwent**  
**Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent**

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Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu ar gyfer Gwent | Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent:  
**Ian Johnston QPM**

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 4DF

5<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

Dear Home Secretary

**HMIC Inspection: Responding to Austerity**

As required by statute, I am writing to you with my comments on the Gwent position set out by the HMIC report on Responding to Austerity.

I am pleased that HMIC has recognised the good progress the Chief Constable and his team have made in demonstrating that they are well on track to securing the necessary savings to balance the books. This is no mean feat considering the enormity of the financial challenges faced with on-going public spending cuts. The Chief Constable and I are fully aware that Gwent Police has to be more flexible and agile to meet these demands.

Many of the proposals mentioned in the report have now been implemented including the new operating model, the CARES Programme and the Victims Hub which provide an improved level of service and support to victims in Gwent.

I continue to monitor the Chief Constable's progress on responding to Austerity via the Strategy and Performance Board where I hold the Chief Constable to account. I also have representatives on the Staying Ahead Programme Board which considers all matters relating to the Force's Change Management Programme.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Johnston', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ian Johnston QPM  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

Cc: Wendy Williams, HMI  
Jeff Farrar, Chief Constable