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Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Gwent | Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent:  
**Jeff Cuthbert B.Sc., MCIPD**



The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 4DF

16th April 2018

Dear Home Secretary,

### **HMICFRS Inspection – PEEL: Police Effectiveness 2017**

As required by statute, I am writing to you with my comments on the on the HMICFRS report on PEEL: Police Effectiveness 2017. .

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome this report which reflects the progress made by Gwent Police in addressing the following key areas:

- How effective is the force at preventing crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and keeping people safe?
- How effective is the force at investigating crime and reducing re-offending?
- How effective is the force at protecting those who are vulnerable from harm, and supporting victims?
- How effective is the force at tackling serious and organised crime?
- How effective are the forces' specialist capabilities?

I acknowledge that the Inspectors have identified Gwent Police as 'Requiring Improvement' in certain areas of this report such as; supporting victims and the use of body-worn cameras in domestic abuse incidents; however I am pleased to see that HMICFRS is confident that Gwent Police can improve.

Whilst it is disappointing to see that Gwent Police is requiring improvement in some areas, I welcome the findings which highlight where the service can be improved upon. The Chief

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg, a phan ddaw i law, byddwn yn ateb yn y Gymraeg – ni fydd hyn yn gohirio ein hymateb. Os hoffech dderbyn gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg o hyn ymlaen, neu os ydych wedi cael eich gwahodd i gyfweiliad neu gyfarfod ac yr hoffech ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg, anfonwch e-bost at: [Commissioner@gwent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Commissioner@gwent.pnn.police.uk). Darperir gwasanaethau cyfieithu.*

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and where received, we will reply in Welsh - this will not delay our response. If you wish to receive correspondence in Welsh hereafter or if you have been invited to an interview or meeting and you wish to use Welsh, send email to: [Commissioner@gwent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Commissioner@gwent.pnn.police.uk). Translation services will be provided.

Constable and I will now focus on the constructive advice provided by HMICFRS, as we are fully committed to ensuring that victims of crime have the best service and support possible.

Consistency around the use of body-worn cameras to record evidence at domestic abuse incidents has already been addressed since the inspection was conducted. In recent months, Gwent Police were the first police service in Wales to launch a dedicated virtual reality facility to train officers on how to handle domestic abuse incidents. Officers are briefed on the importance of switching on their body-worn cameras when they arrive at an incident and it now forms a compulsory part of their training. I am therefore encouraged by the work already underway to address the concerns raised.

It was pleasing to see that HMICFRS has recognised that Gwent Police has a good awareness of vulnerability and that it has improved the way in which it identifies vulnerable people when they first contact the service. It was also positive to see the special mention of the impact of the work undertaken by the Specialist Mental Health Practitioners in the force control room, who are there to provide immediate support to people with mental health conditions.

Gwent Police has been rated good consistently over the last three years and has been recognised as one of the most improved services in England and Wales by the Inspectorate. In this last financial year Gwent Police were rated as 'Good' overall in the last four reports published by HMICFRS and this latest report verifies that Gwent Police is "Preventing crime and tackling anti-social behavior" and "Investigating crime and reducing reoffending" despite "dramatic increases in demand and ongoing financial pressures". As such, I am confident that Gwent Police is in a good position. The Chief Constable and I are fully committed to ensuring that Gwent Police builds on the areas identified and hope that this reassures the public of Gwent that their policing service is in a good position moving forward.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Cuthbert', written in a cursive style.

**Jeff Cuthbert B.Sc., MCIPD**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent**

Cc: Wendy Williams, HMI  
Julian Williams, Chief Constable