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



The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

9th January 2019

Dear Home Secretary

HMICFRS Gwent Police Crime Data Integrity Inspection 2018

As required by statute, I am writing to you with my comments on the HMICFRS inspection report for Gwent on Crime Data Integrity.

I was disappointed with the 'requires to improve' outcome of the inspection report in light of the good progress made by Gwent Police in this area. I am, however, pleased to note the acknowledgement of the strong leadership and "concerted effort" made by Gwent Police to improve the effective recording of crimes since the previous inspection in 2014. Ethical crime recording which is victim-focused is imperative in providing the best service possible to victims of crime in Gwent.

I am reassured that Gwent Police continue to work towards improving the accuracy of crime recording whilst recognising that there is still further work that needs to be undertaken, primarily around training and awareness raising. Recent improvements that have been made to support the accuracy of crime recording have been in relation to the first point of contact that victims have with the force. Processes within the force control room have been reviewed and the ability to record certain crimes at this first point of contact, where enough information is available, have been increased.

I note the areas in the report that have been highlighted for improvement and can assure you that these will be discussed with the Chief Constable and that my office will continue to monitor progress against all recommendations identified within the report.

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. Darperir gwasanaethau cyfieithu.

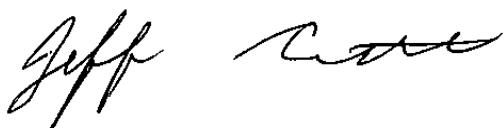
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and where received, we will reply in Welsh - this will not delay our response. If you wish to receive correspondence in Welsh hereafter or if you have been invited to an interview or meeting and you wish to use Welsh, send email to: Commissioner@gwent.pnn.police.uk.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

The Chief Constable has assured me that victims are at the heart of everything the force does and remain their priority. There are specialist teams and officers focused on our most vulnerable and new measures continue to be introduced in order to provide support for these people.

As recognised prior to the inspection, work continues to be progressed in relation to how Gwent Police deal with domestic abuse crimes. A crisis intervention team has recently been introduced in the control room so that there is a specialist response to domestic abuse calls, offering further support for staff taking these calls and the victims themselves. Gwent has also seen an increase in the use of domestic violence protection orders with the force working directly with victims to discuss their experiences of the service, ensuring it continues to improve.

I am extremely pleased that all recommendations from the 2014 inspection were found to have been implemented as well as those set out in a national action plan developed to improve police crime recording. This dedication to making improvements for victims ensures we continue to provide a better service to our communities.

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