

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

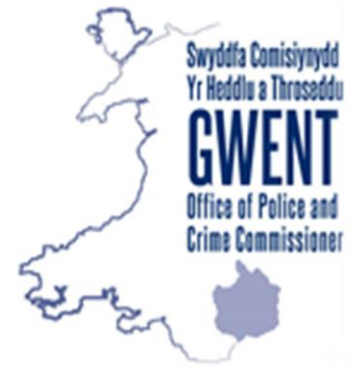
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Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddau Gwent | Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent:  
**Jeff Cuthbert B.Sc., MCIPD**



The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 4DF

30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Home Secretary

**Regional Organised Crime Units. An inspection of the effectiveness of the Regional Organised Crime Units**

As required by statute, I am writing to you to respond to the inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) entitled 'Regional Organised Crime Units. An Inspection of the effectiveness of the Regional Organised Crime Units'.

I welcome the report and the important areas it highlights. I was pleased to note the progress made by the Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU) since 2015 in cyber-crime and undercover policing, particularly due to the prevalence of cyber-crime and its impact on communities, not only here in Gwent but across the UK.

However, I have been and still am concerned that there is not a sustainable funding model to support the important work the ROCUs undertake. I acknowledge that the funding arrangements are complex and short term and this is compounded by the fact that as they are regional units. Each PCC contributing to them could have differing views about the funding levels they receive based on balancing this need with the needs of more local priorities. I welcome the recommendation for the Home Office, NPCC and APCC to develop a sustainable funding model for ROCUs; this is also supported by Chief Constable Pam Kelly as illustrated by her comment below:

*"We welcome this thematic inspection report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services which considers how effectively and efficiently the Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCUs) tackle the threat from serious and organised crime. We will work closely with colleagues in South Wales and Dyfed Powys Police to address the recommendations made in this report."*

*In response to the concerns raised regarding the structural complexity and nature of ROCU funding, I welcome the review by the Home Office and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to identify a sustainable funding model to ensure the ROCUs are a central part of achieving the government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy".*

In Gwent we take an active role in the ROCU (known as Tarian) that we share with South Wales Police and Dyfed-Powys Police, actively contributing to the regional resourcing capacity with the deployment of staff, including a Chief Superintendent, to support its work.

I have received updates at my Strategy and Performance Board in relation to the work of the ROCU and the funding issues it experiences. Six monthly updates are also provided to the Policing in Wales group, consisting of the four Welsh PCCs and four Chief Constables.

A regional Collaboration Board also exists to discuss the various operational collaborations that exist in Wales which are attended by chief officers. The Head of the Police Liaison Unit who works with Welsh Government and the four police forces also attends and provides a link into the board for PCCs. I am also reassured that there is an Assistant Chief Constable from South Wales Police already in place to lead the ROCU on behalf of the region.

I have visited the ROCU on a number of occasions to receive briefings on their work and I have also facilitated briefings for local Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd as key stakeholders.

I enclose an update to the recommendations for Chief Constables below:

**By February 2022, chief officers responsible for SOC in each region, with the chief officers of the affected forces, should make sure that systems are in place for senior investigating officers (SIOs) and lead responsible officers (LROs) to work effectively together**


The recommendation is being progressed regionally and is being monitored by the ROCU and will be ultimately reported through the Tarian Oversight Board.

**By February 2022, the chief constable with the lead for SOC in each region, with the chief officers of the affected forces, should ensure that a chief officer is appointed with responsibility for each ROCU, as far as practicable working autonomously of force responsibilities.**

In Tarian, there is an Assistant Chief Constable from South Wales Police who has lead responsibility for Tarian on behalf of all forces that make up the ROCU. However, this recommendation is being considered and discussed further with Chief Officer colleagues in our collaborative ROCU forces.

Both the Chief Constable and I are committed to working with the ROCU in conjunction with the other PCCs and forces in the region in order to take forward the recommendations and ensure communities here in Gwent continue to be kept as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely



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