

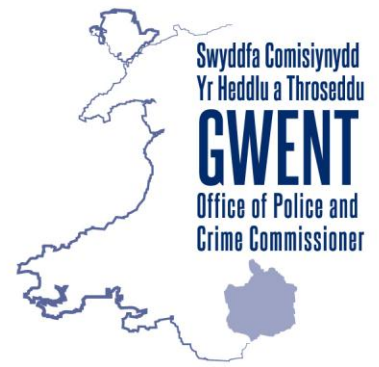
Swyddfa Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu, Gwent
Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent

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

6 May 2014

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

Dear Home Secretary,

HMIC Report on the Police Response to Domestic Violence and Abuse

As required by statute, I am writing to provide my response to the HMIC Report on the Police Response to Domestic Violence and Abuse. I welcome the report which identified a number of recommendations for Gwent and I have already received an update on actions taken to improve our response to domestic abuse and address the recommendations. I am confident that many of the actions are already underway or were in train prior to the inspection as part of the Gwent Pathfinder Project.

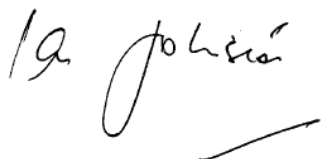
I completely agree that domestic abuse is an appalling crime and Victims are a focus of my Police and Crime Plan. This is supported by my Victims' Charter which I launched with the support of Baroness Newlove last September.

I have met with the Chief Constable to discuss this inspection in detail and will continue to monitor the force's action plan for this area via a full report to my Strategy and Performance Board and ongoing scrutiny and challenge by my team. I was pleased that the report acknowledged that this area was a priority for me and senior officers and that the Domestic Abuse Conference Call was seen as innovative and good practice. I will continue to emphasise the need for a consistent approach and a focus on repeat victims and I am pleased to report that a number of initiatives in this area will be introduced shortly.

I continue to work closely with Welsh Government which is due to introduce the Ending Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Bill to the National Assembly for Wales shortly. Gwent Police are, as you will be aware, a White Ribbon organization which is something I wholeheartedly support. I am also pleased to announce that plans are underway for the arrangements for a second Domestic Abuse Conference for Gwent; this will be aimed at Sergeants and Inspectors.

Please be assured that the Chief Constable and I will continue to lead by example and ensure that this area remains a key priority for all officers and staff.

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: Dru Sharpling, HMI

