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Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddau 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

17th May 2019

Dear Home Secretary

HMICFRS Inspection - Fraud: Time to Choose

As required by statute, I am writing to you to respond, from a Gwent perspective, to the two recommendations directed towards all Chief Constables within the HMICFRS 'Fraud: Time to Choose' inspection report.

I have been reassured by the Chief Constable that work is ongoing by the Fraud team in Gwent to ensure there are processes in place to accurately and efficiently report fraud outcomes to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau. Gwent Police has also made links with the regional coordinator in this area in order to scope what policy documents already exist in other force areas in relation to responding to and investigating allegations of fraud, with best practice from these documents being utilised to assist in the development of a policy document for Gwent.

In relation to the five areas of improvement identified within the inspection report, Gwent Police has undertaken work to ensure they are able to action the areas highlighted in order to provide the service the public in Gwent expect.

An Action Fraud Safeguarding Officer is now in place to ensure all victims identified have the appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place. The Safeguarding Officer will be a members of the newly formed Action Fraud Triage Team.

Gwent Police understand the need to improve identification and mapping of organised crime groups in the area in which the principal criminality is fraud; work is ongoing with the Regional Organised Crime Threat Assessment (ROCTA) team and the Principal Analyst within Gwent

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.

Police in order to develop this further. There are currently no organised crime groups identified in Gwent whose primary purpose is to commit fraud.

In order to ensure that fraudsters are included among those considered for serious organised crime 'prevent' tactics Gwent Police currently utilise the GAIN Network and SARS is well embedded within the organisation. There are also strong relationships with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs regarding enforcement against those with unexplained wealth. The Chief Constable has however advised me that further work needs to be undertaken in this area in order to develop their processes further.

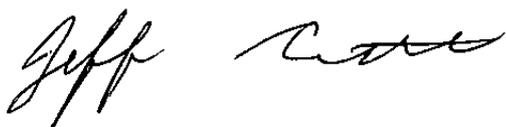
There are currently no unexplained wealth orders that exist within Gwent. This has been recognised as an area for development with the Regional Organised Crime Unit.

Gwent Police has reviewed its compliance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime when investigating fraud. The Code is complied with in both Local Policing Areas within Gwent with a further dip sample of those investigations held centrally to be undertaken in order to benchmark compliance. I have been assured that if any gaps are identified that training will be provided and further scrutiny undertaken.

Progress against these recommendations and areas for improvement are reported to a monthly Serious Organised Crime meeting and are then also reported for further scrutiny at the Operational Effectiveness and Efficiency Board, at which a representative from my office attends. I will ensure that support will continued to be provided to the Chief Constable in order to ensure that further progress is made against the identified areas.

Fraud is an area of crime that affects people from all walks of life and I am pleased that the Chief Constable will continue to progress work in this area to ensure Gwent Police is providing the best service possible to victims of crime.

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