

Swyddfa Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddau, Gwent  
Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent  
Pencadlys Heddlu Gwent | Gwent Police Headquarters,  
Croesyceiliog, Cwmbrân, NP44 2XJ  
Ffôn | Tel: 01633 642 200  
E-bost | Email: [commissioner@gwent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:commissioner@gwent.pnn.police.uk)  
Gwe | Web: [www.gwent.pcc.police.uk](http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk)

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

14<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Dear Home Secretary

### **HMICFRS Inspection of Sussex Police – Stalking and harassment**

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 'Stalking and harassment' inspection report of Sussex Police, commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### **Recommendation 1:**

Within six months chief constables should ensure that forces record stalking or harassment crimes if appropriate when victims report breaches of orders.

#### **Recommendation 2:**

Within six months chief constables should ensure that officers are aware of the importance of treating breaches of orders, where appropriate, as part of a wider pattern of offending, and ensure that force policy and guidance helps officers to do this.

Following my request for information about how the Chief Constable will address the recommendations within the report and through my monitoring of Gwent Police, I am reassured that Gwent Police has now reviewed the occurrences reported for breaches of restraining orders for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019. The majority of these occurrences were isolated and not connected to other breaches or additional offences of stalking and harassment, and were dealt with appropriately. It has however been identified that there is some further work to be undertaken to ensure that any related issues of stalking, harassment and/or coercive controlling behaviour are identified appropriately; the Chief Constable has assured me that work will continue to ensure this is being recognised by officers and recorded appropriately.

*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.

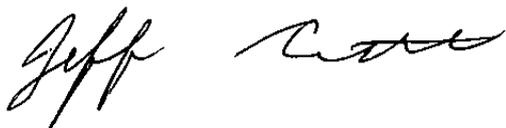
In order to assist with this identification, Gwent Police has a dedicated Detective Constable (DC) who reviews all stalking cases to offer guidance to officers as well as identifying crimes that should be recorded as stalking and/or harassment. The DC liaises with the Head of Crime Recording to either record these crimes or reclassify existing crimes. Gwent Police also holds a monthly Coercive Controlling Behaviour meeting chaired by the Head of Public Protection at which performance on stalking and harassment is monitored. This performance information is then fed in to the Assistant Chief Constable's Organisational Efficiency and Effectiveness Board (via the Vulnerability Board), where the OPCC sits as a critical friend. I can also inform you that the findings of the stalking and harassment inspection of Sussex Police have been discussed in a recent Coercive Controlling Behavior meeting. As a result, a specific sub group for stalking and harassment has now been established in Gwent in order to review the findings of the inspection. An action plan will also be created to ensure the actions and recommendations from the inspection are embedded in practice.

I am also reassured that this is a continued area of focus for Gwent Police as the Learning and Development Team has recently delivered a 20 week programme that trained a approximately 800 frontline officers, with a further 100 staff trained from the Force Control Room and the Crime Management Unit, to recognise stalking and harassment.

I am pleased to read that within the HMICFRS hate crime inspection in 2018, Gwent Police's use of a single point of contact to give support to both officers and victims was highlighted as good practice with a suggestion that it could be adapted for stalking and harassment. The Chief Constable has confirmed that, if requested, further information in relation to how the hate crime support officers work could be provided to assist Sussex Police.

I can confirm that my office will continue to provide support to the Chief Constable in order to ensure that victims of stalking and harassment receive the best service possible.

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