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Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd 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

12th December 2019

Dear Home Secretary

HMICFRS Inspection – Cyber: Keep the light on

As required by statute, I am writing to you to respond, from a Gwent perspective, to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) 'Cyber: Keep the light on – An inspection of the police response to cyber dependent crime' inspection report.

Cybercrime is an issue that has grown in prominence during my term as PCC and as a result I reviewed my Police and Crime Plan this year to ensure that Gwent Police put an even greater focus on cybercrime. This is complemented by Chief Constable Kelly's role as cybercrime lead for Wales.

I welcome the national report from HMICFRS into the UK's current response to cybercrime and the future threat presented by cyber dependent crime. I was pleased to note the recommendation for the UK Government to develop a national policing response to cyber dependent crime due to its complex nature and continued growth.

In Gwent we are increasing our resilience to tackle this growing crime type and I have provided the Chief Constable with additional funds over the past two years to support the growth of the Police Online Team. In addition, Gwent Police has introduced a dedicated Financial Investigations and Cyber Crime Unit which has been expanded to also include a dedicated Cyber Community Support Officer and Cyber Protect Officer, to deliver online safety and security advice to our communities.

In relation to the area for improvement identified within the inspection report, the Chief Constable has assured me that although Gwent Police do not currently have cyber specials or volunteers assisting with work in the cybercrime environment, a scoping exercise of the skills existing

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.

specials have will take place to determine if they could be used to provide support in this area. Depending on the result of this exercise, additional recruitment may be considered in order to ensure we have volunteers with the specific skills needed. Gwent Police does, however, have two interns on a rolling 12 month basis who work within the High Tech Crime Unit; a resource that they find invaluable.

As well as our local response to this area of crime, both my office and Gwent Police work closely with other forces, partners and the Welsh and UK Governments to tackle this growing and complex area of crime. However, a more coherent, joined up approach is needed to safeguard against this threat to our national security and the Chief Constable and I are committed to being part of that approach.

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. HMICFRS