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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

20th March 2020

Dear Home Secretary,

HMICFRS Inspection – PEEL: Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy 2018/19

As required by statute, I am writing to you with my comments on Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) PEEL 2018/19 inspection report for Gwent.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome this report that evidences Gwent Police is delivering a good and effective service for its residents. I was pleased to learn that the force were commended for delivering in a number of my Police and Crime Plan priority areas such as crime prevention, supporting victims and effective service delivery.

I was also particularly pleased to note the positive move from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good' for Effectiveness since the last PEEL Assessment with inspectors praising the support offered to victims during investigations to be good with 89% of crime victims satisfied with how easy it was to contact Gwent Police and with the time officers took to arrive on scene. I also recognise, as does the Chief Constable, the need to continue to improve the way in which the force updates victims with efforts continuing to be focused on this area.

Gwent Police places great importance on protecting the most vulnerable and I am pleased that the inspectors recognised the significant progress made in responding to victims of domestic abuse since the last inspection.

I welcome the findings in relation to the Efficiency element of the inspection, especially in relation to understanding what the public wants as this is imperative in being able to address local concerns and ensure the relevant resources are made available to support these areas. This in

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.

turn supports the aim to provide the people of Gwent with confidence that the force can help them feel safe in their communities.

In relation to the Legitimacy element of the inspection, I was disappointed to learn that the force had been rated as 'requires improvement'. Whilst the inspection recognised that leaders within the force are good at understanding the importance of engaging with the people we serve and treating them with fairness and respect, more training in unconscious bias would support them in this approach. Further areas for improvement were also identified in relation to the monitoring of both use of force and stop and search in order to provide reassurance that the public will be treated fairly. I will support the Chief Constable to progress work in these areas, particularly in stop and search/use of force. My office co-ordinates the Legitimacy Scrutiny Panel which, independent to the force, dip samples this area of work and provides feedback to the force on areas of concern or any recommendations identified. I will ensure that a review of the Panel takes place to ensure that it provides robust external scrutiny on the areas raised within the inspection report in order to further support the force in developing this area of work and also to provide additional reassurance to the public that they will be treated fairly.

I am reassured by the Chief Constable that she is focused on improving this grading for the next inspection and she and my team are in regular contact with the Force Liaison Officer for HMICFRS to ensure that we are working in partnership to make improvements.

Overall, the Chief Constable and I are pleased with this inspection report, which we hope will reassure local residents that we are working together to deliver services that make a difference, whilst also achieving value for money during what can only be described as challenging times.

As such, I am confident that Gwent Police is in a good position. I acknowledge the areas for improvement highlighted in the report. The Chief Constable and I are fully committed to ensuring that Gwent Police builds on these and hope that this will reassure the public of Gwent that their policing service is in a good position moving forward.

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