

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

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Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddau 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

13th May 2020

Dear Home Secretary

HMICFRS Inspection: Counter-terrorism policing – An inspection of the police’s contribution to the government’s Prevent programme

As required by statute, I am writing to you to respond, from a Gwent perspective, to the findings contained within the HMICFRS inspection report into the police’s contribution to the government’s Prevent programme.

I welcome this national report and am pleased to note that the findings were largely encouraging, that the purpose of Prevent is understood and that forces are meeting their obligations under their ‘Prevent duty’.

In Gwent, in fact in Wales, I am confident that we have good arrangements in place to effectively respond to the threat from national and international terrorism and extremism via the Wales Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit (WECTU). WECTU, having been established in 2006, works collectively with partners and the public to identify, target and disrupt terrorists and extremists, ensuring our response to this threat in Wales is as robust as possible. I believe this pan-Wales approach uses our limited resources in the most effective way possible whilst also building confidence and trust in our communities.

I agree that the development of a national training package would be beneficial as it would help ensure consistency and oversight of how Prevent work is undertaken across England and Wales. However, during 2019 WECTU started work to enhance Prevent delivery across Wales, including the training of force Prevent champions which I believe puts Wales in a good position.

I support the recommendation for national guidance to be developed for the police service on applying Prevent to staff vulnerable to radicalisation or extremism. It is imperative that the

appropriate measures are taken in relation to any concerns forces have but they must be progressed with care and without any discriminatory action.

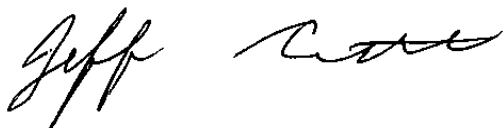
In relation to the development of performance measures for Prevent, I believe it would be beneficial for any national work in this area to involve both force and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) consultation. Performance monitoring of the force is the responsibility of the PCC and any measures need to ensure they support any work that PCC's have already undertaken, not just in relation to Prevent, but their wider performance monitoring responsibilities.

I have been reassured that Gwent Police is reviewing the processes currently in place around Prevent referrals to ensure numbers are increased where/when appropriate. The force has Prevent Champions in place, again numbers will be reviewed to ensure there is sufficient cover and resilience. Gwent Police has also amended its Public Protection Notice referrals to capture and ensure that any signs of radicalisation are recorded.

With regards to the recommendation that each force Prevent lead should review the attendance of force representatives at Channel panels so that police are correctly represented by decision makers who can contribute to managing risk, I have been assured by the Chief Constable that this has been completed and that there are appropriate arrangements in place which ensures attendance at the meetings is undertaken by a Sergeant or above and that the attendee is able to contribute to the meeting and make decisions as appropriate.

Terrorism is a growing concern around the world and I believe that neighbourhood policing and intelligence from the public play a key role in assisting the police in bringing these offenders to justice. I will continue to support the Chief Constable to ensure that the people of Gwent, as well as across the UK, are kept as safe as 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