

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

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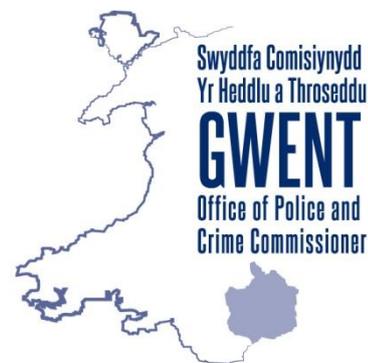
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Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu ar gyfer Gwent | Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent:

Jeff Cuthbert B.Sc., MCIPD



The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

28th November 2017

Dear Home Secretary,

HMICFRS Inspection - PEEL: Police Efficiency 2017

As required by statute, I am writing to you with my comments on the HMICFRS report on PEEL: Police Efficiency 2017.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome this report which reflects the progress made by Gwent Police in addressing 'How efficient is the force at keeping people safe and reducing crime' by looking at the following key areas:

- How well does policing understand its demand?
- How well does policing use its resources?
- How well is policing planning for the future?

I am pleased to see that HMICFRS have given Gwent Police an overall rating of 'Good' with a number of examples being documented in their report. The report also focuses on leadership; how the force currently uses its resources and how it plans to do so in the future. The report highlights that Gwent Police has:

- Maintained a strong financial position with sound financial planning;
- Achieved improvements in efficiency through working in collaboration;
- Made significant savings since 2010/11 with many of the savings being achieved ahead of schedule;
- Been proactive in seeking out new opportunities for service improvement, which resulted in innovative and improved service to the public;
- Made good use of technology to achieve its understanding of demand;
- Have good governance structures in place to identify waste and inefficiency;
- Have a good understanding of the skills and capabilities it needs now and in the future;
- Have an investment plan, in line with the Police and Crime Plan, which prioritises investment to deal with matters such as hidden crime, technology and developing its workforce.

In the report HMICFRS have concluded that Gwent Police is a good police service and that they have not identified any causes for concern and therefore have made no specific recommendations.

This is the third consecutive year in a row that Gwent Police has maintained a 'Good' rating in this area. As Commissioner I am responsible for maintaining an efficient and effective police service for our communities. I am pleased to see the very positive feedback from HMICFRS, highlighting a number of areas of good work by Gwent Police in achieving this. I feel that this recognises the hard work undertaken by Gwent Police to be in a position where it can make significant savings whilst also ensuring that services continue to be invested in. However, I am also aware of the difficulties faced in balancing the efficiency of the service with the demands of delivering policing services to our communities. In that respect, I sincerely hope that cuts to the policing service are not continued as we need to ensure that the service the public receives from Gwent Police is in no way reduced whilst we continue to seek ways to be more efficient.

I am confident that Gwent Police is in a good position to address the areas covered by this report, particularly in relation to understanding future demand on policing services, which is already being proactively addressed by the Chief Constable and of which I will continue to monitor progress on. The Chief Constable and I are fully committed to improving efficiency; we will continue to work together to collaborate with partners and other organisations in order to improve efficiencies, prevent crime and proactively seek out previously hidden crimes.

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