

OFF ROAD BIKING ANNUAL REPORT

***ADRODDIADAU'R
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A SICRWYDD***

**ACCOUNTABILITY AND
ASSURANCE BOARD**

24 October 2025

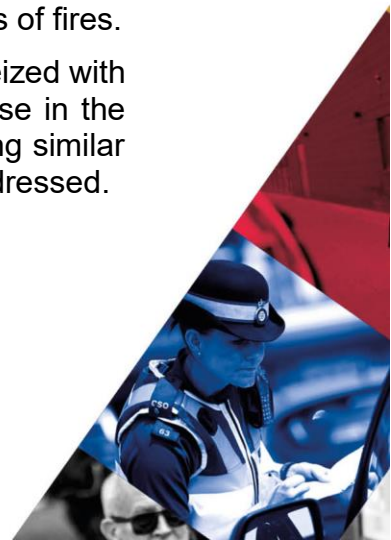


1. *DIBEN AC ARGYMHELLIAD* | PURPOSE AND RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is for information and overview of the current position regarding off-road bikes and the joint work that Gwent Police has undertaken to date to deal with this issue.
- 1.2. There are no recommendations made requiring a decision.

2. *CYFLWYNIAD A CHEFNDIR* | INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The term off-road bikes in the context of this report relates to more traditional motorcross or other 'scrambler' style bikes that are used on mountains, bridgeways or other green spaces across the force and not Sur-Ron, e-bikes or other mechanically propelled bikes that are sometimes used on highways, bi-ways or pavements.
- 2.2. Operation Harley is Gwent Police designated off-road force approach operating with Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) and Roads Policing Operational Support (RPSO) conducting multi agency operations to target offenders.
- 2.3. Our approach is Gwent wide; however, our resources focus principally on three local authority areas, based on demand in service. These are Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and Torfaen, with targeted operations within other areas, such as Newport.
- 2.4. In order to improve communication, the force has introduced dedicated SPOCs for each ward area, as a point of contact for the public. This is in addition to the OIC and other initiatives.
- 2.5. The Home Office have funded £2 million, some of which has been utilised to create the Community Action Team to address neighbourhood issues. This team assists in tackling reports of off-road biking but are also proactive in patrolling problem areas.
- 2.6. An uplift of 2 additional PCs within the Rural Crime Team, who assist with tackling off road bikes within the rural area. The neighbourhood and rural crime teams conduct joint patrols alongside the South Wales Fire and Rescue Services (SWFRS) on an ad hoc basis.
- 2.7. There has been a total of 522 ASB - Environmental incidents during Q1 2025-2026, this is an increase of 27% compared to the previous quarter; with 59% explicitly referencing either off-road bikes or the settings of fires.
- 2.8. Additionally, an increasing number of off-road bikes have been seized with the results published on social media and other outlets. This rise in the media coverage may be a factor in the upturn in persons reporting similar incidents, due to the confidence that their concerns are being addressed.



- 2.9. Walk and Talk Engagements have been successfully conducted in priority locations. These sessions involved local partners, Key Individual Networks (KINs), and representatives / members of parliament, fostering community trust and enhancing situational awareness.

3. *MATERION I'W HYSTYRIED* | ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1. There are no issues for consideration this report is provided for information only.

4. *CYDWEITHIO* | COLLABORATION

- 4.1. Corporate Communications have a communication strategy to engage with the public in relation to Op Harley to highlight and capture the good work of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. As part of this strategy the Corporate Communications team partnered with ITV national news to film the work within Newport around Op Harley, which has reached 17.1 million.
- 4.2. Significant progress has been made in strengthening multi-agency collaboration under Operation Harley, targeting illegal use of off-road and electric bikes linked to criminality. Each policing section has a partnership plan and tracking tool.
- 4.3. Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Officers have been formally allocated across all policing areas. These officers are actively engaging with Council Safety Partnerships through joint meetings, coordinated operations, and intelligence sharing protocols.
- 4.4. Joint Operational Activity continues to be a cornerstone of the strategy: multi-agency deployments utilising shared vehicles, personnel, and enforcement powers—both civil and criminal deliver impactful interventions. All operations are aligned with JESIP principles to ensure interoperability and safety.

5. *CAMAU NESAF* | NEXT STEPS

- 5.1. Monitoring the success of the new Area Response Car initiative (ARC) team, aiming to respond to ongoing off-road bike incidents.
- 5.2. Monitoring the impact and public perception of the corporate communication strategy.
- 5.3. Continue refining POP plans based on assessment outcomes and community feedback.
- 5.4. Expand Walk and Talk sessions to emerging hotspot areas.



- 5.5. Monitor enforcement outcomes and intelligence flow to inform future tasking.

6. YSTYRIAETHAU ARIANNOL | FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1. There are no financial considerations during this reporting period.

7. YSTYRIAETHAU PERSONEL | PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1. There are no personnel considerations during this reporting period.

8. YSTYRIAETHAU CYFREITHIOL | LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1. There are no legal considerations during this reporting period.

9. YSTYRIAETHAU CYDRADDOLDEB A HAWLIAU DYNOL | EQUALITIES & HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1. This report has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Strategic Equality Plan and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.
- 9.2. In preparing this report, consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.

10. RISG | RISK

- 10.1. There are no current risks within this reporting period.

11. BUDD Y CYHOEDD | PUBLIC INTEREST

- 11.1. In producing this report, has consideration been given to 'public confidence'? **Yes**
- 11.2. Are the contents of this report, observations and appendices necessary and suitable for the public domain? **Yes**
- 11.3. If you consider this report to be exempt from the public domain, please state the reasons:



12. *AWDUR YR ADRODDIAD* | REPORT AUTHOR

12.1. CI Stevie Warden

13. *PRIF SWYDDOG ARWEINIOL* | LEAD CHIEF OFFICER

13.1. DCC Nicky Brain

14. *ATODIADAU* | ANNEXES

14.1. None

15. *CYMERADWYAETH LLYWODRAETHU A BRIF SWYDDOG* | GOVERNANCE BOARD AND CHIEF OFFICER APPROVAL

15.1. This report has been presented to the Scrutiny Executive Board

Meeting chaired by: **DCC Nicola Brain**

Meeting date: **5 August 2025**

Actions or amendments arising from meeting: **None**

15.2. I confirm this report has been discussed and approved at a formal Chief Officers' meeting.

15.3. I confirm this report is **suitable** for the public domain for the reasons stated in 11.3.

Llofnod | Signature:



Dyddiad | Date: **14 August 2025**



