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Comisynydd Heddlu a Throseddu Gwent | Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent: Jane Mudd

The Right Honourable Yvette Cooper  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 4DF

20<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Dear Home Secretary,

## Report on joint case building by the police and Crown Prosecution Service

As required by statute, I am writing to you to respond to the joint inspection report from His Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSP) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) entitled, 'Joint case building by the police and Crown Prosecution Service', published in July 2025.

I welcome the findings in the report as an opportunity to build on the existing arrangements locally. These will allow us to enhance and improve the effectiveness and standards of case file building and timeliness. This is reflected by the Chief Constable in his comments:

*I welcome this joint inspection report from His Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, which examines the building of prosecution cases by the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), with a focus on the joint culture and communication. In Gwent, we have established processes in place with our CPS Area. We liaise daily regarding case escalations, hold in-person Joint Operational Improvement Meetings and complete joint training. As the report also highlights, Gwent Police is due to be a pilot for the roll out of the Digital Case File programme in January 2026. We will continue to work closely with the CPS to implement the recommendations made in the report.*

In addition, I welcome the proposal for a clear strategy for the National Criminal Justice Board and the opportunity to reflect their work programme and priorities locally, through the Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board. We will welcome engagement and consultation on this during further development to ensure local variation is not lost, particularly in Wales.

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 gwahoddi gyfweiliad neu gyfarfod ac yr hoffech ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg, anfonwch e-bost at: [Commissioner@gwent.police.uk](mailto:Commissioner@gwent.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.police.uk](mailto:Commissioner@gwent.police.uk). Translation services will be provided.

The following recommendations were noted within the report:

**Recommendation 5 - By July 2026, police forces should have in place as part of their gatekeeping or comparable arrangements:**

- **an effective governance and decision-making capability to ensure investigations are timely and completed to the appropriate standards**
- **agreed contact arrangements in place in forces and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Areas to facilitate clear, consistent, and transparent communication between police and CPS**
- **sufficient, trained, and competent decision-makers**
- **effective and efficient systems and processes to manage case file submission queues, to avoid unnecessary delays and risks to cases subject to statutory time limits.**

**Recommendation 7 - Within 12 months of the completion of recommendation 6 police forces should ensure that every supervisor responsible for assessing case files prior to referral to the Crown Prosecution Service for a charging decision is trained in case file building and Director's Guidance on Charging (6th edition) (DG6) quality assurance.**

**Recommendation 9 - By July 2026, the police and Crown Prosecution Service at Joint Operational Improvement Meetings should develop a joint local training plan to increase awareness and understanding of each other's roles, including the operation of IT systems**

#### Chief Constable's Update

- Recommendations will be incorporated into ongoing joint work between the police and CPS and will be addressed through current and upcoming meetings and collaborative projects, including Joint Operational Improvement Meetings and Strategic Joint Operational Improvement Meetings.
- The recommendations are linked to existing workstreams, such as the Criminal Justice Board subgroups and the investigations quality improvement programme, ensuring that early collaboration, joint decision-making, and case file quality improvements will be embedded in ongoing processes.
- Training and capability gaps are being addressed through ongoing training programmes and upskilling initiatives for officers and staff involved in case building, including the PIP1 Supervisor's course due for roll out Autumn 2025.
- Performance monitoring and continuous improvement frameworks are already in place or being developed, with the intention to use feedback and learning from CPS to inform future project actions.
- The integration of digital tools and systems, as well as the focus on victim and witness needs, are being considered as part of the broader change and improvement programmes within the force.
- Updates will be incorporated into existing project work and reported through tactical meeting highlight reports.

My Police, Crime and Justice Plan for 2025-29 sets out my commitment to working together to improve the local criminal justice system. This includes ensuring Gwent Police effectively investigates reports of crime and antisocial behaviour and carries out quality investigations. I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for the implementation of the relevant recommendations within the report.

Through my Police, Crime and Justice Plan, I am seeking to strengthen local relationships and activity with partners and ensure they hold each other to account through the Local Criminal Justice Board. The local Board is well placed to act as a vehicle for ensuring oversight, where appropriate, of these recommendations more widely, outside of those for policing.

Furthermore, as the convener and Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board, I will continue to work with wider criminal justice partners to ensure the justice system is the best it can be. The Subgroups are responsible for driving forward the work required to improve timeliness and the quality of justice through greater efficiency and operational effectiveness under the Board's strategic oversight. The Board will retain oversight of local progress against the applicable recommendations to support the achievement of the desired outcomes.

I look forward to seeing the achievement of the improvements required as a result of the activities highlighted in this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Mudd', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jane Mudd  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent