



Rt Hon Alun Michael JP FRSA

Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales
Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu De Cymru



Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

cc: Drusilla Sharpling
HM Inspector of Constabulary
Wales and Western Region

Dear Home Secretary

HMIC Report: South Wales Police Response to the Funding Challenge

I note the contents of the report on South Wales Police's Response to the Funding Challenge published by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary. Please accept this letter as my formal response to the report as now required.

The overall conclusion to the report demonstrates that South Wales Police is achieving a good balance between delivering its efficiency targets and maintaining and improving public services. To quote directly from the report:

"The force is committed to visible local policing. Satisfaction of victims is high and recorded crime and anti-social behaviour continues to fall. This suggests that so far, South Wales Police is managing to make savings without reducing the service it provides to the public."

The report contains a range of useful comparators and insights which will enable constructive challenge of performance to continue.

There are two points in the report that I intend to raise with HM Inspectorate of Constabulary:

- The report implies that South Wales Police receives a comparatively high level of funding relative to our population. However, the report neglects to mention that £8.809m is removed from South Wales Police for redistribution to the other three Welsh forces. I also believe the comment on funding is driven by a comparison of band D Council Tax levels. Such comparisons



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between Welsh and English forces are increasingly fraught, given the respective decisions of the relevant administrations with regard to revaluations, freezes etc;

- The report states that the financial challenge that South Wales Police faces is smaller than other forces. This is not the case. The financial challenge is as great in South Wales Police as any other force. Part of that challenge is being met through our precept strategy which is to increase Council Tax to a level comparable with the three other Welsh Police forces. Forces with higher Council Tax levels will already have a higher financial base than South Wales Police. This is an issue I am seeking to redress. I believe that in the report, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary have focused solely on the savings target for the Chief Constable and not the overall financial challenge.

I am pleased that the report recognises the challenges of policing Cardiff:

“The scale and complexity of incidents routinely dealt with by the force and the additional issues involved in policing a capital city make it unique within Wales.”

This is a point I have consistently made. These challenges are not currently reflected in the funding of South Wales Police and I trust this will be addressed through the forthcoming formula review.

Rt Hon Alun Michael JP
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