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POLICE AND CRIME  
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Date: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013

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

Dear Home Secretary,

As required within Section 55(5) of the Police Act 1996, I am required to comment on reports published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

I write in respect to the recently published findings of the report on an inspection visit to police custody suites in Dyfed-Powys conducted by HMIC and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons.

I thank the HMIC for highlighting the issues detailed within the inspection and for recognising the difficulties of policing a large rural area. That being said, a number of risk factors were identified in the report that I want to pay particular attention to. These include:

- How the risks faced with the low level of Custody Detention Officers, Inspectors and Sergeants is being managed.
- What quality assurances are in place to ensure that poor detainee care does not go unnoticed.
- Planned performance management improvements that will allow informed decisions to be made on how to make the best use of resources.
- How the Force and OPCC can work together with Local Health Boards to ensure prompt Mental Health assessments are available, and with Local Authorities to address the lack of Local Authority accommodation for children and young people who are refused bail.

This will be the focus of my Policing Performance Board in December where I will hold the Chief Constable to account for progress achieved against the recommendations set out in the report. The minutes from this meeting will be made available on my [website](#).

As you will be aware there are cross cutting issues with this report and the thematic inspection entitled "A Criminal Use of Police Cells" which identified the national issue on the degree to which police custody is being utilised as a place of safety for those with mental health needs. I have issued a separate response to that report.

The issues raised in respect of Mental Health and Local Authority accommodation for children and young people who are refused bail are part of my on-going discussions with Local Health Boards and Local Authorities.

A copy of this response is published on my [website](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Salmon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Christopher Salmon**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner**

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