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Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner,
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**COMISIYNYDD
HEDDLU A THROSEDDU
DYFED-POWYS
POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

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

23 September 2014

Dear Home Secretary,

As required within Section 55(5) of the Police Act 1996, I write in response to the joint inspection undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Inspectorate and the Care Quality Commission, "*A joint inspection of the treatment of offenders with learning disabilities within the criminal justice system*".

The report clearly recognises that there are national failings throughout the criminal justice system to identify offenders with learning disabilities. It is paramount that these disabilities are identified from the outset if we are to reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

Following a successful application to the Home Office Precursor Fund, Dyfed-Powys will be operating a mental-health triage unit from October 2014 – similar to the Leicestershire approach detailed within the report. Whilst the aim of the triage is to divert those suffering from mental-ill health away from police custody, we will look at this as a potential option in supporting officers in identifying learning disabilities so that referrals to appropriate services can be made from the outset.

I will explore the effectiveness of the local Appropriate Adult Service with the Chief Constable. Other issues raised by the report will be explored through our Local Criminal Justice Board.

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

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Salmon
Police and Crime Commissioner

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