

Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu Dyfed-Powys,  
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Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner,  
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POLICE AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONER

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

22 January 2019

## **RE: Policing and Mental Health - Picking up the Pieces**

Dear Home Secretary

I write with regard to the above mentioned report, which is welcomed by myself and Chief Constable Mark Collins, who is also the National Police Chief's Council lead for Mental Health and Policing.

As acknowledged within the report, it is extremely difficult to fully assess the demand placed on the police service by those suffering from mental ill-health. Whilst there appears to be a significant level of under-recording, it is recognised across the service that an unacceptable amount of police time is being utilised to support health-related demand. Chief Constable Collins informs me that local health board institutions feature as one of the highest callers reporting concerns for public safety and welfare.

It is encouraging that the report recognised the efforts of all Welsh forces in undertaking two 24 hour demand "snapshot" exercises, which are due to be replicated on a local as well as England and Wales level in the coming year. I will be looking to the Chief Constable to keep me informed of any developments arising from these.

The mental health triage partnership with the Hywel Dda Health Board has been operating for some time. I have been assured that the evaluation of the arrangement is currently being progressed and I will be looking for Dyfed-Powys Police and the Health Board to make a fully informed decision on the future of this service as early as possible, before the current arrangement expires in April. I am of the opinion that the service must make a significant impact on reducing the demand on policing, whilst ensuring

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh or English will not lead to a delay.

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individuals receive the appropriate healthcare and therefore recognise that the current design may not be the only, or best, possible option.

I am encouraged that Dyfed-Powys are working with local mental health services to deliver an improved multi-agency training package, and look forward to receiving updates from Mr Collins on the impact of this in due course.

I close by referring to recent discussions with Welsh Government regarding how devolved services in Wales work with policing to improve current mental health crisis care for our most vulnerable residents. The announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his 2018 Budget that an additional £2 billion will be made available for mental health services is to be welcomed. However, I respectfully urge that the Home Office support my call that a proportion of the Welsh population share (which is understood to be circa £113 million), be focused on supporting the police to meet the increasing demands mental ill health is placing on services.

A recent review conducted by ACC Jon Drake (South Wales Police), who is the Welsh lead for mental health, estimates that approximately £2 million would allow the All Wales Mental Health Concordat to be delivered across Wales.

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

Yours sincerely

**Dafydd Llywelyn**  
**Police & Crime Commissioner**

Cc: HMI Wendy Williams  
First Minister Mark Drakeford  
Chief Constable Mark Collins

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