

Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu Dyfed-Powys,
Blwch Post 99, Llangynnwr, Caerfyrddin, SA31 2PF

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

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

11 March 2020

Re: Evidence led domestic abuse prosecutions

Dear Home Secretary

I write with regard to the above mentioned report, which is welcomed by myself and Chief Constable Mark Collins.

As acknowledged within the report, Domestic Abuse remains a priority for Dyfed Powys Police as governed by the Police and Crime Plan, Control Strategy and Chief's priorities. Chief Constable Collins informs me that many of the recommendations have been implemented within the Force in the last 12 months. The Force has invested significantly in domestic abuse training and has amended structures and capabilities to provide a better response to cases of domestic abuse.

The report recognises that there is no mechanism in place to capture the data to measure performance by either the Crown Prosecution Service or Police forces. The Chief acknowledges that this will require consideration by both agencies. Dyfed Powys has successful conviction rates for domestic abuse cases, higher than both Welsh and English national performance. However, as the report highlights, at present Forces cannot distinguish cases where the victim may be unsupportive and therefore are unable to identify in what proportion of cases this applies. Domestic abuse cases are discussed between the Dyfed Powys Police and the Crown Prosecution Service at a bimonthly meeting which reports into the Force's governance structure. Chief Constable Collins has provided me with examples of individual cases where successful prosecutions have been secured in the absence of support from the victims.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg yn golygu oediad.

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

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I have also been provided with evidence of the process for submission of domestic abuse case advice files to the Crown Prosecution Service and am reassured that this acts as a prompt to ensure all available evidence has been considered, including material other than the complainant's statement. I also welcome the Force's consistent use of domestic violence protection notices in cases where there is insufficient evidence to support a prosecution but where there remains a residual risk.

The introduction of a vulnerability desk within Dyfed Powys police aimed to provide frontline support to officers attending domestic abuse incidents to ensure that they have the best available information in order to make effective decisions. The use of body worn video is included in the live-time advice together with a review of the initial 999 message. These are key evidential opportunities that support investigations where victims are not supportive. From April 2020, a new secondary risk assessment unit will also provide quality assurance of domestic incidents. I continue to seek performance updates from the Chief Constable to ensure that this work is delivering both improvements in the response provided to victims and in effective prosecutions.

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

Yours sincerely

Dafydd Llywelyn
Police & Crime Commissioner

Cc: HMI Wendy Williams

Chief Constable Mark Collins

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