

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

Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner,
PO Box 99, Llangunnor, Carmarthen, SA31 2PF

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**COMISIYNYDD
HEDDLU A THROSEDDU
DYFED-POWYS
POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

HMICFRS

August 2020

RE: Roads Policing: An inspection of roads policing in England and Wales

Dear Home Secretary,

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

I am confident that Dyfed-Powys Police as a Force recognises the major challenges that Roads Policing represents, and can assure you that following the recommendations from within the report, that Dyfed Powys Police (DPP) understands the current demands surrounding Roads Policing within our communities extremely well.

There is a determined focus on Roads Policing, which is referenced under the heading of 'Keeping our communities' safe' in my Police and Crime Plan:

- Promote road safety activities and campaigns to address the five main causes of fatal road traffic collisions; speeding, alcohol, drugs, using a mobile phone and not wearing a seatbelt
- Fund road safety schemes that address behaviour and attitudes amongst drivers
- Engage with road user groups to help raise awareness on road safety issues and encourage communities to participate in road safety initiatives
- Work with the Welsh Government and partners to ensure that all types of road users, including cyclists, equestrian road users and pedestrians are safe on our roads
- Monitor demand, response times and complaints to ensure that the Roads Policing Unit is adequately resourced and officers are effectively deployed across the Force

To assist with delivering the above priorities, DPP has a part time Road Safety Officer whose role profile includes:

- Analyse casualty data with the view to identifying high risk trends
- To co-ordinate Road Safety Campaigns organised by the Force, to include Roads Policing Operations that have a Safety/Collision prevention theme

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

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- To investigate and submit reports on specific Road Safety problems brought to Departments attention
- To undertake Road Safety projects and research

DPP has developed an effective working partnership with the organisation Go Safe, who have the required software to undertake formal collision reduction analysis at site.

Analysis function includes:

- Management office analyst responsible for centralised reporting including collision and speed reduction at sites, mobile unit performance, central ticket office performance and fixed site infrastructure performance
- 4 x Unit analysts for each police force charged with site selection and analysis
- Established reporting mechanisms are annual report, site reviews, monthly performance package. This needs to be ratified.
- There are issues around collision data supply from forces.
- Third party software is also used for MOSAIC profiling, but is dated as relies on DfT data. This is underused by partners.
- Data is fed into RPU colleagues through existing channels. This has been improved where GoSafe attend Spec Ops tasking/similar but is not applicable to each force.

As part of this successful working relationship, Operation SNAP has been developed in Wales, with DPP Roads Policing Unit staff support GoSafe in dealing with Op Snap offenders and Intel gathering. As demand increases, it is likely that resources (staff levels) will need an increase, which will be directed from GoSafe budget and supported by DPP.

Both the Chief Constable and I are satisfied that the resources allocated to policing the strategic road network within Dyfed-Powys are sufficient. Presently, DPP has an establishment of 61 RPU officers across the four geographical counties (this includes five RPU Sergeants). The establishment is divided as follows and is decided upon having due regard for the demand for particular counties and also for the threat, risk and harm matters identified -

- Carmarthenshire – 19 PC's and 1 Sergeant.
- Pembrokeshire – 13 PC's and 1 Sergeant.
- Ceredigion – 10 PC's and 1 Sergeant.
- Powys – 20 PC's and 2 Sergeant's.

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We are aware that DPP is not currently at full establishment due to vacancies that have arisen through natural wastage and officers being promoted to other roles within the organisation, therefore there is a recruitment process running now with the hope that by Autumn 2020 that the Force RPU is at full establishment.

Both the Chief Constable and I are satisfied that DPP has effective partnership arrangements including appropriate intelligence sharing agreements with relevant highways agencies. DPP has established partnership relationships in place with the four local authorities, Trunk Roads Agencies, Welsh Government and DVLA/DVSA. DPP RPU also works regularly with other agencies such as Trading Standards, Immigration and Animal Welfare, with regular multi-agency operations being developed.

We are aware that there are some recommendations that we need to continue to develop and this includes that appropriate welfare support is provided to specialist investigators and family liaison officers involved in the investigation of fatal road traffic collisions.

At present DPP has one Road Death Family Liaison Co-ordinator; however, this is in addition to her role as SCIU sergeant. In 2018, DPP trained four new Family Liaison Advisors. However only one of them is currently active. DPP has 52-trained Road Death FLOs. 31 of those are currently active and deployable.

Management and welfare responsibility often falls on the Road Death Lead Investigator who has deployed the FLO and as a Force we will be working to enhance welfare support for FLO's.

DPP does not currently have any accredited training plan in place for new or existing RPU officers. New RPU officers are supplied with a workbook to assist 'on the job' learning. DPP has run sporadic training courses for RPU officers over the last 5 years. These have been run when a skills shortage has been identified. Where necessary external subject matter experts have come into force to deliver the training.

Examples of courses run:

- C10 vehicle examiners courses
- Fast road training
- Road Death Investigation for constables
- Tachograph training
- Pursuit TAC advisor
- Drink/Drug drive training

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DPP has a well-established Driver Training Unit that delivers the entire accredited and necessary driver training for all RPU officers. In addition to this selected RPU officers receive motorcycle, VIP and instructor training. DPP would benefit for a more formalised and defined 'Roads Policing Course' for all officers who join the department.

As a Commissioner's office, we work in close partnership with the National Charity Brake and make a financial contribution towards their national Road Traffic Collision support service helpline on an annual basis. Brake support RTC victims and over the last period have supported 36 cases across Dyfed-Powys via their helpline, have provided 48 bereavement packs to the families of RTC victims and have provided a training input to our FLO's.

It is without doubt that more can be done to support and develop Roads Policing within Dyfed-Powys and we continue to assess and evaluate our current service delivery. I am confident that Dyfed-Powys Police's continued focus in this area will drive the required improvements. My office will continue to work with the Force to ensure that we are delivering against the recommendations and continue to develop in this area.

A copy of this response is available on my website.

Yours sincerely

Dafydd Llywelyn
Police & Crime Commissioner

Cc: Chief Constable Mark Collins

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