

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

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

11th January 2021

Re: Pre charge bail and released under investigation

Dear Home Secretary

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

I am assured that since the implementation of the changes to the Bail Act in 2017, an Inspector has led a comprehensive review of Dyfed Powys Police's approach to the management of bail and those released under investigation (RUI). This work has continued in earnest since the HMICFRS inspection and feedback received has been noted and acted on. To ensure compliance with Bail Act provisions and safeguarding issues the Force has made important changes to processes through the introduction of several key systems, a summary of which are outlined below:

The bail/RUI dashboard

This provides supervisors with detailed, up to date information regarding suspects currently subject to bail or RUI. The dashboard allows staff and managers the ability to view the total numbers of suspects on bail or RUI in their areas of business; the system enables managers to scrutinise individual records and ensure decisions are made in line with legislation and with due regard to safeguarding considerations. The dashboard incorporates a colour coded bail return tag which alerts officers and supervisors to forthcoming bail returns enabling them to plan their work more effectively.

To complement this work, a data cleansing exercise was undertaken of those custody records previously finalised as RUI. Changes have been made to the finalisation status to reflect the actual outcome of the investigation; as a result, the total number of RUI records has been reduced from nearly 7,000 at the start of 2020 to 835 (as of 8 January 2021).

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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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Daily management meeting functionality

The briefing system has been updated with the addition of information regarding suspects subject to bail, thus allowing senior leadership teams to undertake daily oversight and scrutiny. The system comprises colour coded tabs for *Divisional New Bail Act* and *Fail to Answer Bail*. The tabs allow for monitoring of bail return dates with suspects failing to answer bail highlighted in red.

An input has been given to several Chief Inspectors, along with single points of contact in each Basic Command Unit to ensure knowledge of the functionality and to enhance local oversight.

The bail/RUI e-form

Another significant development and improvement is the reconfiguration and repurposing of the bail e-form, initially introduced following the aforementioned changes to the Bail Act.

The original e-form was used to manage initial bail applications, bail extension requests and court bail extension requests. The functionality has been extended to provide oversight of the decision to change the status of suspects from on bail to RUI. The changes place victim and safeguarding considerations at the centre of decision making; officers must now comment on the appropriateness of RUI requests and complete a THRIVES assessment. If the reviewing Inspector considers the application inappropriate, alternatives are then considered – e.g. Superintendent extension.

All decisions to RUI suspects under investigation for a RAID offence (rape, aggravated offences, Integrated Offender Management nominal and domestic offences) must also be authorised through the e-form process, thus ensuring the same level of oversight and scrutiny. This approach ensures appropriate oversight, focus and accountability around RUI decisions in cases with increased vulnerability and higher risk levels of offending. Changes have been made to the custody system to prevent suspects being RUI'd without authorisation from an Inspector.

The e-form has been subject to a formal evaluation by the Dyfed Powys Police performance team. The results were highly encouraging and showed that the system ensured safeguarding issues and timely management of bail and RUI were a primary focus for officers and supervisors.

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In summary, I am confident that Dyfed Powys Police are making good progress in achieving the first of the recommendations outlined above. The changes undertaken as a result of the new Bail Act provisions and in response to the HMICFRS inspection findings have been significant and impactful. However, work remains ongoing in order to continue the improvement. Key to this will be the new custody performance framework currently being developed in which bail and RUI feature prominently.

Whilst Bail and RUI champions have already been identified in each of the Basic Command Units, work is ongoing to enhance knowledge and awareness of bail and RUI. Allied to this work, PACE and Bail Act legislation are to be incorporated into a training package being developed for Inspectors.

With regard to the specific mention of the MG3 and work with the Crown Prosecution Service, the Force's Criminal Justice Department are currently working to develop a solution.

I trust that the above provides a comprehensive overview of the arrangements in place within the Force with regards to management of bail and RUI. I will of course be seeking ongoing progress updates from Mr Collins and his senior management team to enable me to fulfil my function of scrutinising the effectiveness of bail arrangements in Dyfed Powys.

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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