

16th July 2021

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to

Report on Hestia's super-complaint on the policing response to victims of modern slavery

It is of concern, especially to me as a commissioner of support services, that there are particularly vulnerable victims who feel they cannot access support and justice. I am grateful to organisations such as Hestia for being the voice of those who are unseen and unheard.

Whilst it is extremely difficult to understand the prevalence of modern slavery in our communities due to the complex and hidden nature of the crime, I have been encouraged by Dyfed-Powys Police strengthening their approach to tackling modern slavery over recent years. In addition to receiving regular updates on the Force's progress in this area, I made a specific request to them with regards to the recommendations in this report. I am pleased that the Force responded with an extremely detailed response, demonstrating their comprehensive arrangements to deal with modern slavery cases. I am also reassured of their continuing commitment to improving how victims are recognised and supported.

In particular, Dyfed-Powys Police have:

- comprehensive training, advice, support and guidance specifically relating to modern slavery;
- good links with BAWSO, who provide support to victims of slavery in Wales; and
- effective oversight arrangements, both internally and multi-agency, for all modern slavery cases.

It is anticipated that cases of modern slavery coming to the attention of the police will significantly grow over the coming year, and I have been assured that Dyfed-Powys Police are planning for this within their Force Management Statement.

My office will continue to work with Dyfed-Powys Police to ensure victims have access to the most appropriate support services.