Ministry of Justice

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

09/09/2021

Dear Colleague,

**Re: Neurodiversity in the criminal justice system: A review of evidence**

I welcome this review on Neurodiversity in the Criminal Justice system.

Neurodiversity is undeniably a complex area, and it is concerning that the review notes that *“it seems that perhaps half of those entering prison could reasonably be expected to have some form of neurodivergent condition which impacts their ability to engage*”, and I would recommend and welcome further research to evaluate the full extent of circumstances.

Even though the report notes that there is consistently low levels of awareness, understanding and confidence in relation to neurodiversity within Police Forces, I have been reassured by our Learning and Development Unit, that Dyfed-Powys Police provide specific training modules to front line staff and officers on Learning Disability Awareness and Autism Awareness. Both of which provide relevant information and support to help identify any neurodiversity conditions, and guidance on dealing with members of the public who have any of its conditions.

However, I believe that Police Forces and all organisations within the Criminal Justice System would benefit from any training that would become available to support frontline staff and officers to develop a greater understanding of the range of neurodiversity conditions and how they may present in people so that appropriate action can be taken to support individuals’ needs.

I welcome the recommendation of collaboration work between the Home Office, Department for Health and Social Care and the Department for Education and the Welsh Government to develop an overarching national strategy.

I look forward to see the Ministry of Justice’s action plan to address the recommendations noted, and will look to work collaboratively to support the implementation of its actions to ensure that we understand and meet the needs of neurodivergent individuals in our communities.

A copy of this response is available on the Office’s [website](http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/accountability-and-transparency/force-performance/hmic/).

Yours truly,



**Dafydd Llywelyn**

**Police and Crime Commissioner**