



30th September 2022

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to Dyfed-Powys Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection 2021/22

It is greatly encouraging to see Dyfed-Powys Police's efforts to continuously improve being recognised in the report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Just over one year ago, HMICFRS deemed there to be a significant service failure or risk to public safety in the Dyfed-Powys area. This resulted in Dyfed-Powys Police being issued with an accelerated cause of concern relating to how they record crimes. At the time, I expressed my disappointment that the Force had failed to make the necessary improvements, despite my continued scrutiny of the matter.

Following significant efforts, I am encouraged by the marked improvements in the Force's performance in this area, most notably in their accuracy of recording sexual offences.

I am particularly impressed with the improvements made by the Force during the months between their initial inspection and revisit. This demonstrates to me that the Force is listening and responding positively to feedback, to the benefit of the public. Crucially, it proves that when the Service needs to improve rapidly, it can. I expect the Chief Constable to maintain this momentum to achieve consistent improvements.

I was pleased to see recognition of the external scrutiny and support provided by my Quality Assurance Panel and Victim Engagement Forum and our joint Independent Advisory Group. We have long recognised that these fora would benefit from increasing their diversity and reach. I am personally committed to ensuring we do all that we can to improve on this.

I acknowledge that the internal scrutiny of the use of police powers continues to be in need of improvement. The data quoted within the inspection report and my office's scrutiny suggest that the majority of the issues in this area relate to administrative and recording errors rather than poor treatment of the public. However, the Chief Constable and I continue to work together to monitor the performance and perception of officers' treatment of the public. I anticipate some improvements in Dyfed-Powys will be driven through the Deputy Chief Constable's leadership of the community engagement strand of the National Police Chief Council's Race Action Plan.

Whilst there is still undoubtedly more to do, I am reassured that Dyfed-Powys Police is moving in the right direction under the new leadership of Chief Constable Dr Richard Lewis.