

OFFICIAL

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

Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

19 April 2018

Dear Amber Rudd MP

RE: HMIP and HMICFRS Unannounced Inspection Visit to Police Custody Suites in Dyfed-Powys, 6-17 November 2017

I am confident that Dyfed-Powys Police's focus on identifying and supporting vulnerable people is embedded throughout the force, as demonstrated within the above inspection of custody suites. It is reassuring that the Force works to divert children away from custody and to more appropriate accommodation as much as possible and limits any time they spend in custody to a minimum.

Whilst there is a strong culture across the Force to support the safe delivery of custody and detainees are generally treated respectfully and receive a good level of care, it is disappointing in light of the two recent positive HMICFRS PEEL inspection reports that Dyfed-Powys' custody provision is not adequately consistent.

I will be tasking my Independent Custody Visitors to review enhanced aspects of detainees' experiences to ensure the Force are proactively meeting individuals' needs. My office is paying particular attention to quality assuring the force's supervision activities and record keeping via my independent scrutiny panel and ongoing work with the Force's auditing functions.

The Force and my office continue to work extensively on my Estates Strategy, which includes a new state of the art custody suite for Carmarthenshire. The findings contained within the inspection report will be utilised to ensure the new facility is fit for purpose, as well as addressing shortcomings in existing facilities.

The issue of the police's power to use reasonable force is a matter of great concern to the public. As such, my staff are in the process of establishing how I maintain oversight of the appropriateness, proportionality and justification for its use.

The delays in providing specialist support such as legal advice, interpreters, appropriate adults and medical attention for people in custody is unacceptable. I will continue to work with partners and contracted providers to strive for a more responsive and seamless service in order to provide better outcomes for all involved. My office is currently working with Dyfed-Powys Police on a pilot 'Pathfinder' custody triage scheme in the county of Pembrokeshire, with a view to potentially rolling out the scheme across the Force area. The scheme is intended to provide support to custody attendees to divert from crime and address underlying issues through robust risk assessments, tailored supportive intervention and referrals to partners.

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I am so far encouraged by the Force's responsiveness to the inspection findings and will be requesting updates on progress from the Chief Constable in due course.

A copy of this response is published on [my website](#).

Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Llywelyn
Police and Crime Commissioner

cc: HMCi Peter Clarke CVO OBE QPM, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons
HMI Wendy Williams, HM Inspector of Constabulary, Wales and Western Region
Chief Constable Mark Collins, Dyfed-Powys Police

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