



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg yn ogystal â Saesneg.

This document is available in Welsh as well as English.

## **Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to:**

### **Joint inspection by HMCPSI and HMICFRS of case building by the police and Crown Prosecution Service.**

I welcome and acknowledge the findings of the Joint case building by the police and Crown Prosecution service (CPS) report, where inspectors concluded that *"the National Criminal Justice Board (NCJB) should create and publish a clear strategy and oversee the delivery of improvement across the Criminal Justice System (CJS). This must include developing and implementing a national criminal justice action plan which identifies priorities, allocates responsibilities, and sets performance objectives, as well as publishing regular updates on progress against the national criminal justice strategy and objectives."*

I was reassured to read the recognition that the relationship between the police and the CPS is critical in an efficient and effective criminal justice system (CJS). Whilst this report identifies issues with the joint culture and communication between the police and the CPS, it makes several recommendations to address this. It is pleasing to note that recent developments of joint plans to support the improvement of the handling of disclosure, rape and domestic abuse cases has resulted in much more joint work and joint senior strategic plans and oversight with a need for better file quality.

I have set out my thoughts and reassurances I have received from the Chief Constable in relation to the recommendations for Forces below.

### **Recommendation 5: By July 2026, police forces should have in place as part of their gatekeeping or comparable arrangements:**

- **An effective governance and decision-making capability to ensure investigations are timely and completed to the appropriate standards.**

Dyfed-Powys Police has in place Power BI (an interactive data visualisation software product focused on business intelligence) dashboards which identify how long an investigation has been ongoing and time since the last OIC (Officer in Charge)/ Supervisor update.

Work is in progress with the Niche (crime recording system) team to flag crimes that are subject to Strategic Time Limits to ensure that those crimes are supervised robustly and timely.

There are various checklists available for both OICs and Supervisors on the Power BI Apps function which serve as aide memoirs for various crime types/general investigation supervision.

- **Agreed contact arrangements in place in forces and Crown Prosecution Service Areas to facilitate clear, consistent, and transparent communication between police and CPS.**

- **Sufficient, trained, and competent decision makers.**

Dyfed-Powys Police is engaging with CPS Wales to agree communication improvements. This will be a priority given the imminent introduction of their File Build Project. Dyfed-Powys Police are investing in experienced individuals to complete the most challenging aspects of file build to assist the front line.

Representatives of the CPS are members of my Local Criminal Justice Board and interact with members of my team along with attending quarterly meetings. I also meet with the Chief Crown Prosecutor for Wales on a quarterly basis to discuss general issues.

- **Effective and efficient systems and processes to manage case file submission queues, to avoid unnecessary delays and risks to cases subject to statutory time limits.**

Dyfed-Powys Police is in the process of developing a new Performance and Management system (in collaboration with the private sector) that not only will manage day to day file work within the Case Progression Unit but will also provide near live time performance data for all ranks. This will allow for better management and scrutiny of case files.

**Recommendation 6: By July 2026, the College of Policing should develop a national supervisors' training course and assessment on case file building.**

**Recommendation 7: Within 12 months of the completion of recommendation 6, police forces should ensure that every supervisor responsible for assessing case files prior to referral to the Crown Prosecution Service for a charging decision is trained in case file building and Director's Guidance on Charging (6th edition) (DG6) quality assurance.**

I have been informed that Dyfed-Powys Police will maintain dialogue with the College of Policing over the next 12 months in respect of the case file building course, with the aim of further enhancing investigation standards by enrolling on this course.

Dyfed-Powys Police has been accepted on the second phase of the PIP1 Investigative Supervisors programme, which will commence this autumn. This course has a varied and in-depth curriculum aimed at improving the standards of investigation supervision. One element of the course is aimed

at working with the CPS, the role of the CPS, management of action plans, EIA and when and how to challenge the CPS.

I am grateful for the publication of these recommendations. My team and I will continue to work closely with Dyfed-Powys Police representatives to ensure all relevant learning from insights generated through HMICFRS activity is acted upon to improve the policing service for the residents of the Dyfed-Powys area.