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Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu
Dyfed-Powys
Police and Crime Commissioner

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to: HMICFRS inspection of counter-terrorism safeguarding arrangements**

I welcome His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary (HMCI) report, outlining the findings from their recent inspection of counter-terrorism safeguarding arrangements. Positively, there were no identified widespread failings within individual forces and therefore no specific recommendations for Dyfed-Powys Police.

However, the current national safeguarding system is fragmented and inconsistent. Should the Home Office, Counter Terrorism Policing, National Police Chief's Council, National Crime Agency and College of Policing adopt the 14 recommendations and address the 2 areas for improvement, this would significantly support local policing delivery. Lessons emerging from the Southport Inquiry are also highly relevant to territorial policing from both a safeguarding and public protection perspective.

Dyfed-Powys Police have highlighted that strengthened national leadership and governance, data sharing and technology across counter-terrorism safeguarding will enable them to address several key concerns. Particularly, concerns relating to the potential for increased demand on Prevent, increasing numbers of complex referrals, emerging risks posed by Violence-Fixated Individuals (VFIs), online radicalisation, the inconsistency of information-sharing and unclear accountability across agencies.

Locally, governance and oversight for the force is led by the ACC as the current chair of the MAPPA Strategic Management Board (SMB) for Dyfed Powys. The ACC also holds the senior strategic responsibility for the oversight of Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) on behalf of the organisation. I am assured this provides clear, strategic ownership. Governance is incorporated internally into the strategic safeguarding and vulnerability board which one of my team attends, as well as embedded within the Force Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination (FTTCG) and Intelligence Development Groups (IDG).

The ACC provided a witness statement to the Southport Inquiry on behalf of the organisation, under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006. The strengths and benefits of Dyfed-Powys Police's existing arrangements, particularly the potential mechanism for the effective management of Violence Fixated

Individuals (VFIs) was of specific interest to the inquiry. I am assured Dyfed-Powys Police have clearly defined thresholds, ownership and escalation routes. These existing arrangements are closely delivered and monitored with key partners through strong partnerships.

However, for VFIs to effectively be considered, assessed and managed within existing MAPPA, Dyfed-Powys Police require a nationally consistent framework. This would entail an amendment to the existing MAPPA categories, or an additional category to be introduced, specifically associated to non-convicted individuals who pose a significant risk of serious harm to the public. Currently, there is no legal and defensible basis for managing VFIs without any previous conviction within the existing structures.

Dyfed-Powys Police recognise the challenges regarding a legislative basis for managing non convicted individuals through a statutory public protection framework. However, the introduction of non-convicted individuals in this way provides a nationally consistent framework for the identification and robust risk management of VFIs, of which both 'Responsible Authority' and 'Duty to Cooperate' agencies have a legal duty to comply under MAPPA.

When Prevent referrals are required, I have been assured the Dyfed-Powys Police Vulnerability Hub and Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) Wales Prevent have processes in place to quality assure, supervise, oversee and feedback on the referrals iteratively. I have also been assured on the continued monitoring of local referral trends by Dyfed-Powys Police alongside regional Counter Terrorism partners, to ensure sufficient safeguarding capacity. The force reviews quarterly data for Prevent referrals, closely monitoring trends both locally and nationally.

CTP Wales also compile an annual Strategic Assessment, covering emerging threats such as VFIs and harm caused through online behaviours. I am assured this is shared with the force and referenced within the force's own Strategic assessment.

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.