



16th Oct 2023

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER RESPONSE TO THE HMICFRS INSPECTION REPORT: 'AN INSPECTION OF HOW EFFECTIVE POLICE FORCES ARE IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF FIREARMS.'

This report details the findings from thematic inspections of police forces. This HMICFRS inspection examined how effective police forces are in the deployment of firearms, including specialist munitions. The inspection found many dedicated and professional teams who are dedicated to keeping the public safe.

Where police have the power and authority to carry weapons and discharge them, the highest level of oversight is required. This is the risk in armed policing, and the recommendations HMICFRS have identified need to be addressed with some urgency. I note these recommendations and will align any areas of concern to our scrutiny and oversight of South Wales Police.

The Chief Constable and I are both eager to ensure the highest standards of supervision and process are in place within Firearms. The Assistant Chief Constable Travis summarises his views on the report as follows:

'South Wales Police as one of the three Welsh forces collaborating as the Joint Firearms Unit, acknowledges the findings and recommendations for the report and is fully committed to improving the effectiveness of the deployment of authorised firearms officers.'

The force provides a 24 hour rota covering an on call Specialist Firearms Commander capability and has recently moved to a two on duty, Force Incident Manager Model with both these FIM's being or working towards being I-TFC accredited. The force has acknowledged the 12 recommendations and can confirm that the majority were achieved prior to this report, with the remaining recommendations on progress to being achieved by the requested deadlines.'

South Wales Police will continue to enhance our capabilities as a part of the Joint Firearms Unit to safeguard the public and bring to justice those offenders who pose a serious risk to others.'

Rt Hon Alun Michael JP OStJ FRSA

Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu De Cymru
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales



I am grateful for the Assistant Chief Constable's comments and the commitment to safeguarding the public. I will ensure my Scrutiny & Accountability Board works closely with South Wales Police to consider further oversight in this area.

Rt Hon Alun Michael
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales

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Mae'r Comisiynydd a'i dîm yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg
The Commissioner and his team welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English