

Rt Hon Alun Michael JP OStJ FRSA

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



16th Oct 2023

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER RESPONSE TO THE HMICFRS INSPECTION REPORT: 'AN INSPECTION OF RACE DISPARITY IN POLICE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DECISION-MAKING.'

This report details the findings from thematic inspections of police forces. This HMICFRS inspection examined race disparity in decision making. The inspection found failings in gathering appropriate data on race and measuring race disparity effectively. However, the report notes there are areas of encouragement, particularly within Wales and with the Criminal Justice In Wales Anti-Racism Action Plan.

As it is was recognised within the MacPherson's inquiry and again more recently within the Casey review, there is a systemic issue with regards to race disparity in policing. My office, together with other Welsh criminal justice partners, have committed to meeting the actions within the Criminal Justice In Wales Anti-Racism Action Plan in order to drive the change and reduce harm. As such, I note these recommendations and will align these considerable areas of concern to our scrutiny and oversight of South Wales Police.

The Chief Constable and I are both eager to ensure that lessons are learnt and bridges are built with the racially marginalised groups, who for too long have been let down by policing. The Deputy Chief Constable Bacon summarises her views on the report as follows:

'South Wales Police were not one of the focus forces for this thematic review nevertheless South Wales Police acknowledges that the findings are systematic of the police as a whole and we will work towards implementing the recommendations within the report. South Wales Police have done much work to identify race disparity in stop and search and we will use this format to allow us to fully implement the 4 recommendations of this report that were directed at the police. We will carry out a full review across our criminal justice decision making processes and ensure that we build in scrutiny work around these results and that this work becomes business as usual. South Wales Police will continue to work with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the community as well as other partners in this area to ensure that all 13 recommendations of the report are implemented. South Wales Police are

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very aware that fair decision making is key to the public's trust and confidence in them and that an increase in public confidence is a key to reducing crime overall.'

I am grateful for the Deputy Chief Constable's comments and the commitment to challenging racism and race disparity in the criminal justice system in Wales. I will ensure my Scrutiny & Accountability Board works closely with South Wales Police to consider further oversight in this area.

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