



Mr Jonathon Morgan  
**Health, Wellbeing & Local  
Government Committee**  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

25<sup>th</sup> February 2011

**Police Authorities of Wales**

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Dear Mr Morgan,

This is the Police Authorities of Wales (PAW) response to the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee request to stakeholders to put forward areas for inclusion in the legacy report that they feel the Committee's successor should examine during the Fourth Assembly.

We would like to highlight the on-going good work of the TARIAN collaborative policing unit. The primary aim of TARIAN is to disrupt organised crime groups (OCG), particularly relating to the areas of drug distribution and human trafficking. Both of these crime categories have been shown to have a disproportionate impact on the wellbeing of Welsh communities.

We would ask you to consider the following observations:

- 1KG of heroin mixed with cutting agents = 10,000 £10 bags. An addict's average daily consumption of heroin is 3.28 bags per day. Therefore, 1KG of heroin supplies 3048 addicts per day. (ADAM project 2000)
- The majority of addicts are heavy drinkers and smokers.
- 80% of addicts are unemployed (NTORS 2001) which equates to 2400 users of the 3048 supplied daily.
- Average daily consumption of heroin and associated drinking and smoking leads to a shortfall in expenditure of £1800 per month per unemployed addict (NTORS 2001)
- Each drug related death costs £1,144,000 in social, economic, health and criminal justice costs – same as the annual budget for the Regional Asset Recovery Team (RART), (HORS 249 – year 2000 values). In 2008 there were 96 drug deaths (£109.8M).
- Heroin use is predictive of involvement in acquisitive crime; addicts are 10 times more likely to be involved in crime than other sectors of society (NTORS 2001).

The cost of heroin usage in Welsh communities:

- 1KG of heroin = 10,000 £10 bags ÷ 3.28 usage per day = 3048 addicts supplied daily.
- 80% of addicts are found to be unemployed = 2400 unemployed addicts with a monthly income shortfall of £1800 = £4,320,000 to source monthly.
- With the assumption that the required income is attained by the 50% realisation of stolen assets = that will require the theft of £8,640,000 worth of goods monthly.

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- Each problematic drug user costs the country £44,231 in crime, social, health and economic costs (*Economic & Social Costs of Class A drug use in E&W Home office Research updated 2006 values*)
- Total cost = £44,231 x 2400 addicts = **£106,154,400<sup>i</sup>**

TARIAN intercepted an Organised Crime Group (OCG) that was delivering 900KG of heroin into Wales worth approximately £50M. The cost of the TARIAN operation was £140K and took 7 months to deliver – disrupting a supply chain and providing excellent value for money.

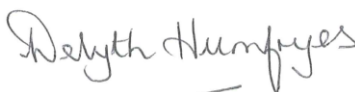
TARIAN can evidence that they have a cost-effective and impactful response to the supply of drugs in Wales and are capable of taking proactive intervention to pursue the confiscation of criminal assets making life more difficult for the OCGs and their members.

TARIAN at present operates on a budget of £4M in its preventative efforts to disrupt the distribution of drugs across Wales. In contrast the Welsh Assembly Government spends approximately £52M in service provisions and rehabilitation for substance misusers.

PAW is appreciative of the much needed support that WAG provides for TARIAN with a grant fund of £642,000. However, PAW believes that drug trafficking is a serious blight on Welsh communities and recognises the huge amount of resources that WAG allocates to tackle the damage inflicted by drugs. We would suggest that the Committee should consider the future balance between spending on preventative services (TARIAN) and the incurred costs of dealing with the aftermath of drug abuse, including the provision of drug abuse rehabilitation and associated services.

If the Committee wishes to examine this matter in greater detail please contact Police Authorities of Wales Executive Officer, Mrs Shelley Bosson.

Yours Faithfully



Mrs Delyth Humfryes  
Chair of PAW

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<sup>i</sup> All the above figures have been collated by Temp. Detective Superintendent Dodd and have been quoted from Home Office Research documents / National Treatment Outcome Research Studies / and other academic papers relating to England & Wales from 2000/1. All were open sourced and updated by HOR in 2006.

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