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ACPO Cymru



“The Professional Voice of Police Leadership across Wales”

Janet Ryder AM,
Chair Constitutional Affairs Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff. CF99 1NA.

Dear Chair,

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE INQUIRY DRAFTING WELSH GOVERNMENT MEASURES: LESSONS FROM THE FIRST THREE YEARS

On behalf of ACPO Cymru, I am grateful for this opportunity to provide evidence to the Committee from a policing perspective.

The Report of the All Wales Convention included the following observation, *‘the particular challenge for the police in Wales is how a non-devolved service operates in a largely devolved environment.*

Possibly because we are non devolved, we have not had the opportunity to contribute a view on those issues that concern policing at the drafting

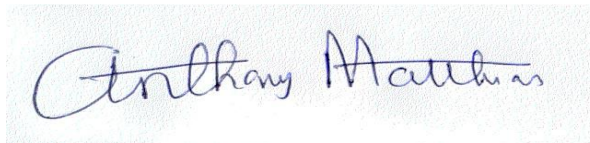
stage of a Measure. Whilst this is quite understandable, it has also meant that on two occasions, (The Local Government Wales Measure 2009 and The Mental Health Measure Wales 2010) we have found ourselves in the position of having to formally raise in our written and oral evidence a legal view that some of what was being proposed fell outside the legislative competence of the National Assembly for Wales.

We fully accept that the consultation stage of a Measure is intended to allow for concerns to be raised, and we are grateful for having had the opportunity to raise our concerns, we do however feel that if we had had a much earlier opportunity to present our concerns then the issue could have been dealt with at that stage and might never have reached the Measure itself.

We therefore submit for the Committees consideration a request that the view of ACPO Cymru is invited at the drafting stage of any future Measure which has implications for policing or is seeking to put a duty on a Chief Constable. Our request is confined to those parts of a Measure which are relevant to policing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response from a policing perspective. I will be happy to provide additional information should you wish.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anthony Matthews", is centered on a light blue rectangular background.

Police Liaison Officer
Welsh Assembly Government