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MJ/CB/KE/5565

2 November 2005,

**Mr Roger Chaffey
National Assembly for Wales
Social Justice & Regeneration Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA**

Dear Mr Chaffey

There has been considerable success in recent years in reducing crime within Carmarthenshire. This has, in part, been due to the close working relationship between the police and the local authority, and other key partners and there is inevitable concern that this may be undermined by the proposed changes.

While there remain many challenges yet to resolve in this area, we believe that the proven success over the past few years in tackling prolific offenders and in generally reducing crime statistics would suggest that the current structure would best enable us to face these challenges.

Based purely on local considerations, the relationships between the police and the local authority – and the local community – within Carmarthenshire do not merit changes and we would support the retention of Dyfed Powys Police as it is currently structured.

In particular, we would be completely opposed to any change in the Basic Command Unit structure which is co-terminous with the local authority boundary. Ultimately, should restructuring take place, the major concern for this authority is that we retain Carmarthenshire as a Basic Command Unit with sufficient resources and delegation in order to address the very real concerns of the community in this area on crime and anti social behaviour in the county.

That said, however, the ability to liaise directly at force level with Dyfed Powys Police has also been a real strength and the loss of this relationship is likely to reduce the effectiveness of the teamworking and joint response to major issues which has worked so well in the past.

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Of the four options contained in the report we would, therefore, favour the status quo.

The proposal to establish two forces – one for South Wales and one for the rest of Wales – seems to us to offer no merit whatsoever.


The alternative of combining North Wales Police with Dyfed Powys Police would be preferable, but would still produce, geographically, a very large unit.

If change is inevitable, there would seem to be no merit favouring either of the “two-force” options over the apparently preferred “all-Wales force” option.

However, we would restate our opinion that we feel change is being instigated on Dyfed-Powys for entirely external and economic reasons with the potential to upset what has been a real success story over recent years.

Although the all-Wales model has emerged as the option which fares best on evaluation, this is only because the evaluation is geared to a methodology which weights certain factors above others and does not adequately deal with the identity, geography and topography of Wales.

Yours sincerely,


Chief Executive