



Torfaen Community Safety Partnership
MAKING TORFAEN A SAFER PLACE

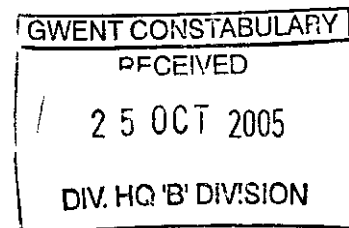
Your Ref:

Our Ref: DJ/RB/Letters
18 October 2005

Community Safety Unit
Torfaen County Borough Council
Glan Torfaen Road
Pontypool
Torfaen
NP4 6YB

Rodger Chaffey
Clerk – Social Justice and
Regeneration Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Chaffey



RESTRUCTURING OF CONSTABULARY

The Torfaen CSP is aware of the debate over Police Reform and will obviously work within the new structure once it has been finalised. Closing the Gap is a comprehensive document which sets out numerous options together with a leaning towards a preferred option. It would be for the individual partner agencies to comment on these options in detail but with regard to the terms of reference for the review there are matters which will effect the ethos of the Torfaen Community Safety Partnership and issues which will effect its ability to work effectively.

The commitment of the Divisional Police to the Torfaen CSP has always been excellent. Partnership working can hardly be improved and we work within a sound collegiate structure. In addition, with the advent of neighbourhood policing, the relationship between the police and the community is fast improving. In essence, the CSP has witnessed a steady encapsulation by all agencies, but especially the local police, of the findings of the AUDIT Commission Report on CSPs. See in particular Par.40 Page 12 which refers to the tension between national and local priorities and the fact that, "Partnerships that focus too narrowly on national issues alone will not serve their communities well". We would not wish to lose the gains we have made, or lose the momentum we have accrued, and we most certainly would not wish the focus to be taken away from the community.

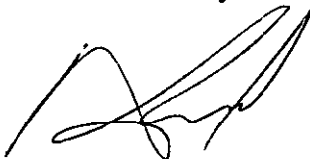
Whatever structure is adopted it is important to the Torfaen CSP that:

- the CSP and YOT structures remain the same
- the BCU has a stronger community identity
- the BCU remains the same size and remains co-terminus with the Local Authority
- the BCU commander remains as joint Chair of the CSP
- the reconfigured Police Authorities are represented on the CSP
- the drive towards Neighbourhood Policing is maintained and that neighbourhood officers are dedicated to their posts
- clear links are forged between the BCU and the overarching structure to ensure public protection
- in time - other partnership arrangements are reviewed especially secondary commissioning arrangements for health, co-ordination for domestic violence, the Fire and Rescue service and youth services

Once the matter has been settled there is the issue of the relationship between the "Responsible Authorities" the home Office and the National Assembly CSU. This needs to be clarified and the relationship formalised.

We have restricted our comments to the possible effect of restructuring on the work of the CSP and although time has prevented us from consulting the wider Partnership we have attempted to set out a consensus view.

Yours Sincerely



Alison Ward
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TORFAEN
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



Chef Superintendent Paul Symes
B DIVISION GWENT POLICE