

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
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Ein Cyf / Our Ref: WR/AH/AJ

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Annwyl Ysgrifennydd Cartref

Dear Home Secretary

Ymateb Heddlu Gogledd Cymru i daclo camdriniaeth ddomestig

North Wales Police's approach to tackling domestic abuse

Yn unol â'r ddeddfwriaeth, ysgrifennaf i gyflwyno fy sylwadau ar adroddiad AHEM 'Ymateb Heddlu Gogledd Cymru i daclo camdriniaeth ddomestig'.

As required by the legislation, I am writing to provide you with my comments on the HMIC report on 'North Wales Police's approach to tackling domestic abuse'.

Hoffwn ddechrau drwy ddiolch i chi am gomisiynu'r archwiliad. Mae wedi darparu eglurder ynghylch cymhlethdod, sensitifrwydd a heriau darparu ymateb effeithiol i gamdriniaeth ddomestig, trosedd sy'n dinistrio bywydau.

May I begin by thanking you for commissioning the inspection. It has provided clarity to the complexity, sensitivity and challenges of delivering an effective response to domestic abuse, a crime which destroys lives.

Cyn i mi droi at fanylion darganfyddiadau'r archwiliad, hoffwn ganmol yr heddlu a'r asiantaethau eraill am eu gwaith i gynyddu proffil a dealltwriaeth o'r trosedd hwn. Mae'n amlwg bod symudiad mawr wedi digwydd o ran agweddau unigolion tuag at gydnabod y trosedd hwn a'i ddifrifoldeb. Fodd bynnag, mae yna dal rai rhannau o gymdeithas sydd heb fod yn rhan o'r symudiad hwn, ac mae'n rhaid i ni felly barhau i weithio i gynyddu hyder, ymwybyddiaeth a dealltwriaeth o'r trosedd hwn fel y gallwn weithio yn fwy effeithiol i leihau niwed a'r risg o niwed. Nid yw camdriniaeth ddomestig yn dderbyniol a hoffwn annog unrhyw un sy'n dioddef

Before I turn to the details of the inspection findings, I should like to applaud the police and the other agencies for their work in raising the profile and understanding of this crime. It is clear that a large movement has taken place in people's attitudes towards recognizing this crime and its seriousness. However, there are still parts of society that have not been part of this movement, we must therefore continue to work to raise confidence, awareness and are understanding of this crime so that we can work more effectively to reduce harm and the risk of harm. Domestic abuse is simply not acceptable and I would urge anyone

camdriniaeth ddomestig i gael cymorth. Nid yw camdriniaeth ddomestig yn ffordd o fyw - mae'n drosedd.

Roeddwn yn falch o weld bod y flaenoriaeth a roddwyd i gamdriniaeth ddomestig yn fy Nghynllun Heddlu a Throsedd wedi treiddio trwy holl lefelau'r sefydliad; sef un o'r prif bryderon a fynegwyd yn genedlaethol. Yr argraff a gefais o ddarllen yr adroddiad ydi bod Heddlu Gogledd Cymru yn heddlu sy'n ceisio ei orau i ddelio'n dda â chamdriniaeth ddomestig ond sy'n methu mewn sawl ffordd.

Roeddwn yn falch o ddarllen bod yr adroddiad yn cydnabod bod yr Heddlu yn cymryd camau di-oed i sicrhau diogelwch ac amddiffyn dioddefwyr a phlant, a bod pob lefel risg ar gyfer dioddefwyr camdriniaeth ddomestig yn cael eu hadolygu'n ddyddiol gan swyddogion arbenigol.

Roeddwn hefyd yn falch o ddarllen bod yr archwiliad wedi darganfod bod yr Heddlu yn gyffredinol yn ymateb yn dda i'r dioddefwyr sy'n wynebu'r risgiau mwyaf a bod y cynlluniau ar gyfer diogelu dioddefwyr achosion risg uchel yn gyson ac yn glir.

Mae'r adroddiad yn adnabod bod risg nad yw rhai o ddioddefwyr camdriniaeth ddomestig yn cael yr ymateb neu'r gwasanaeth y maent ei angen. Ar gyfer y dioddefwyr hynny sydd wedi'u hasesu fel bod yn risg isel nid yw'r gwasanaeth mor dda ag y mae ar gyfer dioddefwyr risg uchel. Rhaid blaenoriaethu'r gefnogaeth a roddir i ddioddefwyr risg uchel. Fodd bynnag mae angen i ni edrych ar sut y gallwn weithio i atal y risg rhag cynyddu er mwyn lleihau niwed ymhellach.

who is experiencing domestic abuse to seek help. Domestic abuse is not a way of life – it is a crime.

I was pleased to see that the priority given to domestic abuse within my Police and Crime Plan had penetrated through all levels of the organisation, which was one of the key concerns expressed nationally. The impression I got from reading the report is that North Wales Police is a force trying its best to be good at dealing with domestic abuse but falling short in a number of respects.

I was reassured that the report acknowledges the force takes immediate actions to ensure the safety and protection of victims and children, and that all risk levels for domestic abuse victims are reviewed on a daily basis by specialist officers.

I was also particularly pleased to read that the inspection found that overall the force responds well to the victims facing the highest risks and that the ongoing safety planning for high risk cases is consistent and clear.

The report identifies that there are risks that some victims of domestic abuse may not be getting the response or the quality of service they need. For those victims assessed as at lower risk the service is not as good as it is for those facing the highest risks. Support provided to high risk victims must be prioritised. However there is work for us to look at how we best work to prevent the escalation of risk to further reduce harm.

Trwy fy nghynllun heddlu a throstedd, rwyf wedi tanlinellu pwysigrwydd darparu cefnogaeth effeithiol i ddiodefwrwr camdriniaeth ddomestig. Rwyf eisiau bodloni fy hun bod y gwasanaeth a ddarperir i ddiodefwrwr yn gyson ac o ansawdd uchel. Er nad yw'r adroddiad yn adnabod enghraifft neu ddigwyddiad penodol, hoffwn fod yn dawl fy meddwl nad yw'r risg posibl gyda'r broses yn peri risg i ddiodefwrwr. Byddaf yn edrych i mewn i'r mater hwn mewn manylder gyda'r prif gwnstabl.

Mae'r prif gwnstabl eisoes wedi dechrau gweithredu proses newydd o adnabod rhestr o droseddwrwr sydd wedi cyflawni camdriniaeth ddomestig dro ar ôl tro. Y bwriad ydi darparu ffocws i swyddogion lleol dargedu ac ymyrryd ag ymddygiad troseddol unigolyn ac yn y pendraw lleihau'r risg i ddiodefwrwr.

Rwyf hefyd wedi cyhoeddi datganiad yn gyhoeddus i ddiodefwrwr camdriniaeth ddomestig er mwyn cynyddu eu hyder i gysylltu â'r heddlu. Rwyf wedi pwysleisio os byddant yn dod ymlaen yna cânt eu cymryd o ddifrif a'u trin yn sensitif.

Mi wnaeth yr adroddiad adnabod bod asiantaethau partner megis y gwasanaeth iechyd, cymorth i ferched, y gwasanaeth prawf a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn gwerthfawrogi'r berthynas broffesiynol effeithiol sydd ganddynt gyda'r heddlu, ac yn benodol y gallu i rannu gwybodaeth briodol am achosion camdriniaeth ddomestig er mwyn rheoli'r risg drwy broses MARAC. Rwyf innau hefyd yn gwerthfawrogi'r gwaith y mae'r partneriaid yn ei wneud, oherwydd ni all yr heddlu daclo'r mater hwn ar ei ben ei hun. Mae capasiti cyfredol y cyfarfodydd asesu risg amlasiantaeth a'u gallu i drafod pob achos ble

Through my police and crime plan, I have emphasised the importance of delivering effective support to victims of domestic abuse. I want to be satisfied that the service provided to victims is consistent and of a high level. Although the report does not identify a specific example or incident, I want to be assured that the potential risk with the process does not become a risk to a victim. I will be looking into this matter in greater detail with the chief constable.

The chief constable has already embarked on implementing a new process of identifying a list of repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse. The purpose is to provide a focus for local officers to target and intervene in an individual's offending behaviour and ultimately reduce the risk posed to a victim.

I have also publically issued a statement to victims of domestic abuse to increase their confidence in approaching the police. I have emphasised that if they come forward they will be taken seriously and treated sensitively.

The report identified that Partner agencies such as health services, women's aid, probation and social care valued the effective professional relationship they have with the force, and in particular the ability to share appropriate information on domestic abuse cases to manage risk through the MARAC process. Equally I value the work that partners do, as the police cannot tackle this issue alone. The current capacity of the multi-agency risk assessment conferences and their ability to discuss all cases where the risk to victims has been identified as high is a concern.

mae risg uchel wedi'i adnabod i'r dioddefwr yn bryder.

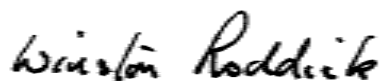
Ar hyn o bryd nid yw amgylchiadau rhai dioddefwyr risg uchel yn cael eu trafod yn y MARAC oherwydd diffyg capasiti, a byddaf yn edrych ar hyn yn fanylach yn y tymor byr ac yn dilyn yr adolygiad o broses MARAC. Bydd hwn yn fater allweddol i bartneriaid Gogledd Cymru edrych arno drwy Fwrdd Cymunedau Diogelach Gogledd Cymru.

Rwyf eisoes wedi trafod pob un o'r prif faterion a adnabuwyd gyda'r prif gwnstabl a byddaf yn cael diweddariadau rheolaidd ar y cynnydd sy'n cael ei wneud. Ar ôl derbyn darganfyddiadau'r archwiliad mae ymateb yr heddlu wedi tawelu fy meddwl ac maent yn ymwybodol ac yn rhoi sylw i'r materion sydd angen eu gwella. Unwaith eto, hoffwn ddiolch i chi am gomisiynu'r gwaith hwn a byddaf yn cynnal gweithgareddau craffu pellach yn seiliedig ar y darganfyddiadau.

Some high risk victims are currently not being discussed at a MARAC because of limited capacity, and I will be looking at this in more detail both in the short term and following the review of the MARAC process. This will be a key issue for partners in north Wales to look at through the North Wales safer Communities Board.

I have already discussed all of the key areas identified with the chief constable and I will be receiving regular updates on the progress made. Following the receipt of the inspection findings I have been reassured by the force's approach and they are aware and addressing the areas for improvement. Once again, I would like to thank you for commissioning this work and I will be undertaking further scrutiny activities based on the findings.

Yn gywir Yours sincerely



Winston Roddick CB QC
Comisiynydd Heddlu / Police Commissioner

cc. Prif Gwnstabl/Chief Constable Mark Polin
Drusilla Sharpling, Arolygiaeth Heddluoedd EM, Rhanbarth Cymru a'r Gorllewin
HM Inspector of Constabulary, Wales and the Western Region