

Alu 2111

**Police Station
High Street
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD16BG
12th October 2005**

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF991NA

Dear Sir.

Restructuring of Constabulary.

Following your written request of 28/9/2005 I submit my observations on this issue which are based on 15 years involvement with crime prevention and interaction with both Homewatch members and members at all levels of the Police Force within Wales.

I am at present Chairman of the Llandrindod Wells Homewatch Association, National Neighbourhood Watch Association Representative to the Dyfed/Powys Police Force and Homewatch Key Co-ordinator for the county of Radnor which operates under the auspices of the Dyfed/Powys Police (A.C.P.O. 7) based at Police H.Q. Llangunor Carmarthenshire.

If I can be of any further help please let me know.

Yours sincerely

f. Clive Taylor.

Clive Taylor.

Without Prejudice

Social Justice And Regeneration Committee Police Regeneration Report. Restructuring Of Constabulary

The attached comments refer mainly to the operation of the Dyfed/Powys Police force with which I am mostly involved. The comments are based on experience and are mainly subjective.

General Comment.

The efficiency and operation of this force is excellent. The force is highly professional with a solid and enthusiastic leadership. The moral of officers at all levels appears to be good and results in terms of a low incidence of crime and a high detection rate speak for themselves. There seems to be a good general working relationship with members of the public and this force co-operates with Homewatch (Neighbourhood Watch) extremely well being both co-operative, supportive, and helpful.

Response To Terms Of Reference.

(1)

The police can only service any community if they have the co-operation and support of members of the public. To achieve this there has to be a practical chain of communication between police and the public. Good public relations are essential. The most effective way to do this is to have as many policemen on the local beats as possible with direct and regular contact with local people. There should be less personnel in police offices with less paper work and less red tape. The police should be seen by the public both on the street and round the clock. I identify the following areas worthy of note

- Beat officers should be more visual at critical times such as closing time at public houses particularly on Friday and Saturday nights
- Local schools should have regular visits from beat police to make friends with young people and to gain their support
- Local police stations should have round the clock access to the public. "Holes in the wall" telephone access are not liked and have proved to be generally ineffective. The public want visual response supported by quick back up action. A policeman to be seen will generate a more positive response from the public. Many incidents are not reported by the public because they cannot get immediate and visual response.
- More C.C.T.V. cameras should be installed at critical problem areas.
- Local issues are best dealt with by local policeman. When police walk areas they see and learn more from local inhabitants about local issues
- The public are appalled by peppercorn sentences given to criminals by magistrates. More support should be given to police observations concerning those charged than

by "do-gooders" and non professionals. It is said in many quarters that lawyers seem to condemn the police at the expense of justice and to procure the release of those charged. This must demoralise the police in the execution of their duties. An appeal procedure should be available to police who feel they have been pilloried with a right to compensation for proven bullying and abuse.

- Communities will respect the police if they see local policemen complemented publicly for their actions.
- Policemen are berated by the public for motoring offences which is unfortunately seen as persecution or minor errors in driving. This could be eliminated if a special body was used for traffic control. Such a body could be paid significantly less than the police employed to reduce crime and would reduce bad feelings with the police

(2).

There does seem to be too many Quango,s paid out of public funds who claim to have a finger in the reduction of crime. Crime can only be controlled by on-hands involvement. Money and time are wasted in non essential bodies who seem to be talk shops and who do not actively walk the streets to help to reduce crime.

Some organisations receive remuneration for anti-crime involvement where others do not. This causes resentment. Increased use of unpaid volunteers can have a useful role to play and it would be constructive if those actively involved could have a small retainer to encourage them in their unpaid work.

Community safety partnerships can only work if they involve all organisations peripheral to crime reduction and do not become embroiled in paperwork, red tape, and employed staff looking to justify paid employment through bureaucracy

(3)

The police should not be forced to involve themselves in extensive liaison with government which in many cases is time wasting and must detract from the war on crime. The police should be autonomous with an open brief to account for their actions and policies. Members of the public in my opinion want a minimum of officialdom, a maximum involvement on the ground to reduce both criminality and adverse public behaviour and results divulged through local police liaison groups - the statistics of which could be made available to government.