

Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau

Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

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John Griffiths AM
Cadeirydd/chair
Equality, Local Government and Communities
Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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Ein Cyf / Our Ref: AJ/AMJ/1343

25 October 2016

Dear Mr Griffiths

Thank you for your letter of 27th September 2016 regarding your post legislative inquiry into the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

I consider that the forward work plan for me and my fellow Commissioners to be our respective Police and Crime Plans. I will be publishing my first plan by March 2017.

The current plan, which was written by my predecessor, Mr Winston Roddick, identified violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence as priorities. These priorities are also reflected in the victims services, commissioned for 2016/17 and include the commissioning of IDVA's, ISVA's and the Victims Help Centre.

Whilst the new plan will be informed by public consultation and both local and national strategic assessments, there is nothing to suggest at this stage that violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence will not remain a priority for 2017/18 and beyond.

Since being elected as Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales, I have been impressed by the improvement in services to victims, but, in the future there will also be a greater focus on the perpetrator of such offences. We are currently working closely with the management of HMP Berwyn around perpetrator intervention programmes for the men who will be housed within Berwyn.

The Committee may also be interested to learn of the Victims Help Centre and the specialist support afforded to victims of crime in North Wales. If the chair or any members of the committee wishes to visit North Wales we would be delighted to highlight to them the work undertaken within the Victims Help Centre. It would also provide an opportunity for the

committee to learn of the current issues facing service providers. Having met with local service providers on many occasions I am concerned that the focus on domestic violence, for all the right reasons, can be to the detriment of sexual violence as the capacity simply isn't there.

I would also be delighted to come and give a presentation to the Committee if they so wish.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arfon Jones', with a small dot at the end.

Arfon Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner