

Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu Dyfed-Powys,
Blwch Post 99, Llangynnwr, Caerfyrddin, SA31 2PF

Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner,
PO Box 99, Llangunnor, Carmarthen, SA31 2PF

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25th January 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Wales Police Schools Programme – School Beat Cymru

I am writing to clarify the position to you regarding the Wales Police Schools Programme as I understand some uncertainty has arisen following the Welsh Government's announcement relating to their draft budget. It is important to state how personally disappointed I am, alongside the Chief Constable, officers, and staff to see that a decision has been made by Welsh Government to completely withdraw their funding for the programme from April the 1st 2024.

Of course, we fully understand that this comes at a time of further reductions from Welsh Government across many departments and it is an incredibly challenging financial and economic landscape. The financial strain is being felt by all our partners and services across Wales.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Wales Police Schools Programme is a collaboration of Welsh Government and Dyfed-Powys, Gwent, North Wales, and South Wales Police which creates the role of Schools Police Officers - a dedicated point of contact for every school in Wales. School Police Officers have been delivering a nationally-reviewed bilingual curriculum of teacher-developed lessons for ages 5–16. More so, they provide support in ensuring safety, well-being and the overall development and pastoral care of students and their schools.

Sadly, the decision to withdraw the funding was one taken by Welsh Government with no formal engagement or consultation with Police Forces in Wales. It is also frustrating to state that as the local Police and Crime Commissioner I was not made aware of the decision until some days before the draft budget announcement.

Recognising the critical role that the School Police Officer plays in maintaining and building a safe and secure environment for students, **I am committed to ensuring the continuity of the programme within the four local authorities of the Dyfed-Powys area until the end of this academic year and will prioritise funding to do this.**

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg yn golygu oediad.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh or English will not lead to a delay.

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The safety and well-being of our children is paramount, and any reduction in support for school police officers could jeopardise the development of our children and young people in my opinion. This is why, over the next few months I will be working with colleagues from all Forces across Wales to take stock, communicate with key stakeholders and to develop a plan for future years. I hope this clarifies the position, the decisions made and provides reassurance to you that I am committed to supporting the programme within the area.

Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Llywelyn
Police and Crime Commissioner

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