



**CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL**

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4 November 2005

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Mr. Roger Chaffey
Clerk to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee
Wales Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA.

Dear Mr. Chaffey

**THE SOCIAL JUSTICE AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE
POLICE RESTRUCTURING**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your letter dated 28 September 2005. As you can imagine this matter is sure to elicit various and personal observations from organisations such as County Councils but I trust that I will be able to convey to you the general feelings following a meeting with the members of the County Council last night.

Although I explained in the meeting that there was no intention to change the management of the Basic Command Unit, the members of the Council generally felt strongly that the North Wales Police Force should be kept as an independent operational unit in future, based on the effectiveness of the current service and given various other factors such as the geography and social and linguistic nature of the region.

Apart from this, members felt there were a number of obvious disadvantages of centralising the Police service on an all-Wales basis. Certainly, such an arrangement would weaken local accountability and also impact on the movement across a number of public sectors in recent years whereby structures have been created in order to bring services closer to the people. An all-Wales arrangement would weaken the role and influence of local authorities such as Ynys Môn in terms of influencing spending programmes and allocating resources because strategic decisions of that nature would, to all intents and purposes, be made in South Wales in members' opinion, and there is therefore a real risk that resources would be increasingly targeted towards urban areas at the expense of rural areas.

In addition, members acknowledge the importance of retaining the North Wales Police Force due to the efficiency of the service as is evidenced by recent statistics. Members also felt that good work has been done over the past few years in providing a Police service which is

sensitive to the needs of local communities in North Wales and this aspect should continue to be developed and protected for the future.

What therefore is the thinking behind attempting to create a structure which is considerably larger than we have at present, and why change "something which is working well" in North Wales ?

In acknowledging that the Home Office is insisting on establishing Police Authorities which are able to respond to Level 2 Crime (i.e. Anti terrorism and so on), due to the nature of North Wales, would it be possible to consider improved collaboration with nearby Police authorities or creating a federal service for strategic matters ?

I trust that these observations will be of assistance.

Yours faithfully



G. F. Edwards
MANAGING DIRECTOR
