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all

**TCC**  
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**Together Creating Communities**  
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8th November 2005

Janice Gregory AM  
Chair of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff

Dear Mrs Gregory

**Re: Proposals to merge police forces and potential effects on North Wales**

I am writing in alarm at the unseemly haste with which these proposals appear to be being progressed. Please will you do all in your power, as Chair of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee, to slow matters down in order that proposals and consequences can be properly considered by not only by the Welsh Assembly Government, the Home Office, politicians, police and police authorities but also by members of the public and their representatives, such as Community Councils, Local Authorities as well as none statutory community groups. The police force is ours, paid for by the community from various public purses, therefore we have every right to be involved in such far reaching decisions which will inevitably affect us all.

I represent the Wales Broadbased Community Organisation, TCC (Together Creating Communities) that has thirty member groups across Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire. We represent thousands of people from faith and secular organisations.

Ideally we would contact each group with information about the proposed mergers and with the concerns that have emerged from the TCC group that works with the Wrexham PCCG. We would canvas a group opinion as well as ensuring everyone has the opportunity to think the issues through and respond individually if they choose. It would appear that we do not have time for this democratic process.

Some of the issues we would like the opportunity to discuss include:

- At present there are strong operational links between North Wales and N.W. England, these appear to work well both practically in terms of support in emergencies and for solving crimes. Would we still benefit from these links or would they be severed if the Wales forces had to merge? How disadvantaged would we be if another riot occurred in Wrexham and we had to wait for support from mid or South Wales?
- In North Wales we have chosen to pay a higher police precept in our Council Tax which has enabled us to have a considerable number of CBM's. Is this the case in other forces? How would the finances be evened out? Would everyone share the same level of services? Would everyone pay the same amount? Or would we have less CBM's?
- Relationships and accountability between the police force and the public have been built up over a period of time. Would this change. Who would the public in North Wales hold

accountable if there was no longer a North Wales force? Who, outside North Wales, would listen to the concerns of the people of North Wales?

We all need time to understand and consider these issues before coming to sound judgement. Please will you both request the time needed and seek answers to the questions raised above.

Yours sincerely

Christine Pilsbury

Mrs C Pilsbury  
Senior Organiser for TCC