



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ87252

Andrew RT Davies MS

Welsh Parliament

10 February 2023

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your written question asking for a breakdown of the amount funding provided by the Welsh Government to organisations and charities combating neo-Nazi and similar groups. I am now able to provide the following substantive response.

The sentencing of 20-year-old Luca BENINCASA, from Cardiff, for a range of offences including offences under Terror legislation, has served as a reminder that extremism is a very real issue right across the UK.

Our Education sector plays a hugely important role in safeguarding our young people through providing counter narratives, support, and engaging with Counter Terrorism Policing and the relevant authorities when necessary.

The Wales Police Schools Programme (WPSP) has been supported by Welsh Government since 2004. We invest £1.98m each year. Match funding is also provided by the four Police Forces. Counter Terrorism Policing provide routine briefings to all School Liaison Officers to enable them to provide inputs across Wales.

Our best chance of protecting those most vulnerable to radicalisation is to adopt a whole-system approach. That includes frontline staff in our Local Government, Education and Health sectors

The online influencer, Andrew Tate, is another name we've seen in the media recently due to his misogynistic views and the impact of his narrative and notoriety on children and young adults.

Through our CONTEST Cymru structures, we are issuing guidance to education settings that is available on our Hwb Platform, particularly a page dedicated to the "Influencer Effect". This resource helps educational settings, learners and families understand the effect influencers' can have on children and young people and highlight some top tips around how this 'effect' can be managed.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The pandemic may have offered greater opportunity for young people to access harmful material online. Our partners across Wales have worked hard to ensure that signs of the development of extremist views or radicalisation are picked up as earlier as possible.

Keeping Safe Online is part of the Hwb platform that provides education settings with resources on a range of online safety issues that have been tailored to the Welsh context and are available bilingually.

For 2022/2023, we have invested a further £1,120,000 on our long-standing Community Cohesion Programme, to fund eight teams across Wales to provide front-line support to communities, including more direct engagement to help monitor and mitigate community tensions, as well as ongoing awareness raising around hate crime. Following an independent review of the Community Cohesion Programme, we have agreed that the Programme should continue to be funded until 2025/2026, to ensure that this valuable work can continue in Wales.

We also fund Victim Support Cymru £360,000 a year to run the Wales Hate Support Centre. As well as providing free, confidential support and advocacy to all victims of hate crime, the Centre delivers hate crime training to communities in Wales.

Since 2021, we have funded £300,000 on the anti-hate crime campaign, *Hate Hurts Wales*. This campaign highlighted to hate crime perpetrators, or potential perpetrators, the hugely negative impact of their actions on both the victim and their own lives, as well as highlighting the importance of bystanders for securing a positive outcome

PREVENT e-Learning is being delivered across Wales' civil sectors where there is a likelihood of contact with people vulnerable to radicalisation. Particularly teaching staff in schools, Higher Education and Further Education Institutions, frontline services in our Local Authorities' and NHS Wales.

Multi-Agency Channel Panels are in place across all areas of Wales to support people referred under PREVENT. The primary aim of Channel is to divert that person away from the path of radicalisation and provide additional support to family members.

Counter Terrorism Policing are in the process of implementing an all-Wales Counter Terrorism Youth Advisory Group (CTYAG) where CT police officers will listen to and engage directly with young people in Wales to ensure our processes and understanding of extremism and pull-factors are current and relevant.

Counter Terrorism Policing in Wales are also running an Autism Pilot and have employed the services of a private autism agency to support those individuals with autism and other neurodivergence away from terrorism and extremism.

A copy of this letter will be published on the internet.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice