

DP 537/03-07

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
First Minister/Prif Weinidog Cymru



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Nick Bourne AM
National Assembly for Wales
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10 February 2004

Dear Nick

At plenary on the 23 September 2003, I agreed to write to you about who is providing funding for Communities First police constables across Wales. I apologise for not writing to you sooner, this has recently been brought to my attention.

In Wales, both South Wales and North Wales Police are proactive in focusing their work at Communities First areas. In April 2002, South Wales Police established seven teams to work in Communities First areas in Merthyr; Cardiff; Rhondda; Vale of Glamorgan; Bridgend; Upper Amman Valley and Swansea. To date, the teams have satisfied both national and local policing priorities, resulting in the reduction of house burglaries and automotive and drug related crimes. Given its success, the number of Police Officers working under this project has expanded and the new staff will build on the good work already being undertaken. This work was the initiative of South Wales Police and the Assembly does not provide any funding towards the running of these teams.

North Wales Police is also working to help both tackle crime and regenerate some of the most deprived areas in North Wales. The then Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities agreed that the Assembly would contribute £277,500 over three years towards the costs of integrating Community Beat Managers into twenty-six Communities First areas throughout North Wales. The initiative sees the allocation of a Community Beat Manager to each of the Communities First areas in North Wales in order to support the effective integration of police work with the Communities First process. Officers will also be appointed in each of the Force's three Command Units to lead the Communities First Community Beat Managers and develop strategic links between the Police, Communities First Partnerships, local authorities and Community Safety Partnerships.

Yours
Rhodri



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE