

DYFED POWYS POLICE AUTHORITY

Draft Media Protocol



At all times due regard must be given to the Guidance Notes attached as Appendix 'A'.

If the Authority or Force is approached about a report or item on the Agenda of a Police Authority meeting (including its Groups or Committees), the Chief Executive, Treasurer, S.112 Officer or Chief Constable may respond to strictly factual enquiries, matters of clarification and professional opinions about the recommendations which they are making to Members, It would not be appropriate however for this to include significantly greater detail about an issue than is contained in the report.

Where a report generates more than requests for factual information, the Chief Executive, Treasurer, S.112 Officer or Chief Constable, in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority or relevant Committee, may agree if they think it in the best interests of the Authority and Force:

- To issue additional statements to the media;
- To make provision for interviews with Senior Police Officers or Police Authority Members.

In exceptional circumstances, to hold a press conference for a major issue where the Authority and/or Force would be represented, dependent upon the issues involved.

Wherever possible, the appropriate Chairman or Lead Member will be invited to speak on behalf of the Authority. All other Authority Members will generally decline to comment, and refer press enquiries to the Authority's Secretariat or the Force Press Office.

In doing any of these, care will be taken not to prejudge the discussions and decisions of the Authority or its Group or Committee. Particular care will be exercised when a report contains performance or monitoring information, where it is particularly important not to second-guess the judgement which Members might reach on the information.

Once the report is considered, the Authority and its Officers will consider, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and/or the Chair of the Authority, the need and the method(s) by which decisions on the issue may be communicated to the media, if considered appropriate.

If Members wish to communicate with the media on an individual basis, they are required to comply with the Guidance Notes and are advised in any event to seek the guidance of the Chief Executive.

The Chief Constable retains operational responsibility for operational matters but will consult with the Chief Executive and Authority concerning press releases on issues of major policy or public interest.