

Preparing for the devolution of Policing in Wales

Carl Foulkes QPM

Cover

- ▶ History
- ▶ Team
- ▶ Our Approach
- ▶ Report
- ▶ Key Findings
- ▶ Questions

Introduction

- ▶ **Caveat:** My Views not Welsh Governments, “Political Decision”
- ▶ **Evolution of the report title!**
- ▶ **History:** Silk 2011, Thomas 2019, Delivering Justice in Wales 2022, Commission on Constitutional Affairs 2024, Gordon Brown’s report.
- ▶ **Previous Reports:** Criminal Justice rather than Police specific

Policing Currently

- ▶ **UK:** There are 48 police forces in the United Kingdom - 170,775 officers
 - ▶ 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales.
 - ▶ National police force in Scotland and Northern Ireland and three specialist police forces namely the British Transport Police, the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, and the Ministry of Defence Police.
- ▶ **Wales:** Policing is not devolved but working in devolved environment. Welsh law specifically; Pandemic, Lawful chastisement, 20MPH, 8000 officers in Wales
- ▶ **Policing is complex:** local, regional, national approach and International reach. Interoperability, mutual aid, contracting and significant focus.

Team

- ▶ Core Team
- ▶ Welsh Government Specialist Support
- ▶ Stakeholder Groups role

The Review

How Review Developed!

Terms of Reference

- The challenges and risks of a devolved model of policing for Wales.
- The practical, financial, and operational considerations associated with implementing policing devolution in Wales.
- The opportunities presented by devolving policing to Wales for communities.
- Consider future policing models for Wales.

Out of Scope:

We did not look at Governance, Wales Force Structure or make Recommendations.

Our Approach

- ▶ This is not an academic paper but academia was key.
- ▶ Interviews: Planned on 30 but conducted nearly 40.
- ▶ Questionnaires: learning taken from these.
- ▶ Experience of core team and stakeholder group.
- ▶ Outline how policing operates in Wales and across UK.

Development of report

- ▶ Clear from start that we offered anonymity.
- ▶ Role of WG research team was crucial.
- ▶ Looked to triangulate views and create a consensus.
- ▶ Whilst there were outliers most people were in a similar place, for example, around principle of devolution.
- ▶ Identified both broad themes and specific areas, for example, role of college of policing.
- ▶ Principle Versus Practicality of devolution!

Key Findings

► Opportunities:

- The opportunity to align policing with other partners and formalise partnership arrangements in Wales.
- The ability to align policing more effectively within the broader public service approach in Wales. One Public Service.
- The opportunity to reimagine culture, and ethos for policing in Wales.
- An opportunity to define a vision for Welsh Policing.

Key Findings

► Challenges:

- **Finance** the complexity of current finance arrangements, potential risks going forward.
- **Resourcing** to support both the transition and future police operating model.
- **National infrastructure and interoperability**, both in relation to supporting (e.g. HMICFRS) and operational functions (e.g. NCA).
- **Governance and accountability**, approach and structure of Welsh Government, local accountability.
- **Powers and legislation**, historic legislation and future legislation.

Mitigation examples

- ▶ Funding formula review.
- ▶ Understanding core responsibilities/roles in Home Office.
- ▶ Building capacity and skills.

- ▶ Clarity of vision to design models
- ▶ Tabletop interoperability
- ▶ Lines of working

- ▶ Specify governance arrangements

- ▶ Understand legal framework and legislation development
- ▶ Clarity on required legislation changes

Potential Devolution Models

- ▶ Starting point has to be Welsh Governments aspiration:
 - What functions they want to devolve.
 - What functions will UK government agree to devolve.
 - What legislation needs to be considered

- ▶ **Three models:**
 - Completely devolved model.
 - Incremental devolved model.
 - A hybrid model

Final Report

Published on 18th of March 2024

In total 62 pages and over 22000 words

Mixed thoughts and views on publication

Clear though on the evidence base

▶ <https://www.gov.wales/preparing-for-the-devolution-of-policing-html>

What Next?

- ▶ Start of the conversation/discussion not the end.
- ▶ Political Landscape Cardiff and Westminster.
- ▶ How build Capacity and Capability?
- ▶ What could be done without devolution?
- ▶ Learning from others.

Questions?