

Welsh police forces to recruit new officers in first wave of 20,000 uplift

- Home Secretary set out her vision for policing at second National Policing Board meeting
- Every police force in Wales and England will be able to recruit officers in the first year of the unprecedented uplift
- 6,000 new police officers in the first wave of ambitious recruitment targets to keep our streets safe, including 302 officers across the four Welsh force areas.
- “Public are clear they want to see more police officers on their streets, whether they live in the city or the countryside” – Home Secretary

The Home Office has today confirmed the officer recruitment targets for police forces for the first year of the unprecedented drive to increase their ranks by 20,000 over the next three years.

Strengthening police numbers is a priority for the UK Government, which is providing £750 million to support forces to recruit up to 6,000 additional officers onto our streets by the end of 2020-21, the first stage in this new uplift. This is thanks to the additional funding announced by the Chancellor in the Spending Review.

Police forces in Wales will be able to recruit a total of 302 new officers. Their first-year recruitment is as follows:

- South Wales Police will be able to recruit 136 new officers, which will increase their officer numbers by 4.6%
- North Wales Police will be able to recruit 62 new officers, which will increase their officer numbers by 4.3%
- Gwent Police will be able to recruit 62 new officers, which will increase their officer numbers by 4.7%
- Dyfed-Powys Police will be able to recruit 42 new officers, which will

increase their officer numbers by 3.7%

The Home Secretary set out her vision for policing yesterday when she chaired the second meeting of the National Policing Board, involving representatives of frontline officers and police leaders.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

The public are clear they want to see more police officers on their streets, whether they live in the city or the countryside.

This is the people's priority and it is exactly what the UK Government is delivering.

It means more than 300 extra officers right across Wales, helping to cut crime and keep communities safe.

UK Government Minister in Wales Kevin Foster said:

All four of our police forces in Wales will benefit from the additional resources announced today, enabling them to tackle crime more effectively and help keep people and communities safe.

The UK Government has been clear that putting more police officers on our streets as part of our biggest recruitment drive in decades is our priority.

All officers recruited as part of the 20,000 uplift will be additional to those hired to fill existing vacancies. They are also on top of the extra officers already being recruited because of the £1 billion increase in police funding for 2019-20, which includes money from council tax and for serious violence.

UK Government funding for recruitment in 2020-21 will cover all associated costs, including training and kit.

The National Policing Board, set up by the Prime Minister in July to drive recruitment and other major policing issues, yesterday heard that all forces are already recruiting and the website for the campaign, 'Be a Force For All', has been visited more than 215,000 times.

The Police Federation and the Police Superintendents Association attended the board for the first time, honouring the Home Secretary's commitment for front line officers and their senior managers to be represented.

National Chair of the Police Federation John Apter said:

Yesterday's meeting was constructive, and it is important that we,

as the largest police staff association, were at the table to ensure our members were represented.

Investment in policing is long overdue and for the first time we now have the actual number of officers each local force will increase by in the next year.

These figures have been based on the current funding formula models and while this method is not perfect, I accept it is the only solution available to deliver the numbers quickly in year one.

We now need to ensure that the formula is revisited for future years to ensure a fairer allocation of officers across all forces, but this is certainly a positive start and will provide a much-needed boost to my members and the communities they serve.

Today's recruitment targets announcement follows the establishment of a £25 million Safer Streets Fund.

Police and Crime Commissioners can bid for funding to prevent burglary and theft in crime hotspots through initiatives that could include interventions to improve home security, such as installing better locks and gating alleyways, and making streets better lit at night, for example.

It also follows the Home Office extending a pilot to make it simpler for forces to use Section 60 serious violence stop and search powers and announcing a £20 million package of actions cracking down on county lines drug gangs.

The Home Office has also announced £10 million of funding to increase the number of officers carrying Taser to keep themselves and the public safe and said plans for a police covenant will focus on the physical protection of officers, their health and wellbeing and support for their families.

ENDS

Notes to editors