

Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr, Diogelwch Cymunedol
Deputy Director, Community Safety



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

10 May 2016

Dear ,

ATISN 10364 Joint Emergency Services Group (Wales)

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11 April 2016 requesting the minutes and agendas of the last four Joint Emergency Services Group (Wales) meetings.

Some of the information, namely the minutes of January 2016, fall out of scope of this request under section s12 (4) (a) "information not held when request was received". The minutes of the Joint Emergency Services Group (Wales) are prepared and cleared by the secretariat and Chair of the Group represented by an external organisation.

I have decided that some of the information is exempt from disclosure under section(s) 23(1) "info supplied by security services"; s24(1) "national security"; s26(1) "defence"; s31(1)(a) "prevention or detection of crime"; s38(1)(a) & (b) "health and safety"; s41(1) "confidential information" and, s43(2) "Commercial interests", of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000. (FoIA) and is therefore withheld. Acknowledging the potentially sensitive nature of the information, my decision is informed by the considered view of the relevant subject experts. The information I have decided to release is at Annex A; the reasons for applying these exemptions are set out in full at Annex B to this letter.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

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Cathays Park,
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CF10 3NQ

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Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

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Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours Sincerely

JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES GROUP (JESG) MEETING Time & Date: 11am Wednesday 28th January 2015 160 Infantry Brigade Wales Headquarters Brecon Barracks		
AGENDA		
1.	Attendance & Apologies. Apologies from: CFO Huw Jakeway CFO Simon Smith Tracy Myhill	Chair
2.	Presentation- SAR Helicopters- Wg Commander Phil Graville & Carl Evans	
3.	Minutes and outstanding actions following the meeting held 10th November 2014	Chair
4.	MTFA	Exempted under s23(1))
5.	Adverse Incidents Paper 5 for noting	Chair
6.	ESMCP Programme Update Programme Managers Update Paper 6a Future of Control Rooms Paper 6b	Chris Davies & Michelle Williams
7.	JESG Coordinators Update Paper 7 ColPol Professional Committee Paper 7a Wales Gold & Accreditation Paper 7b	Dick Knill
8.	Welsh Government Update (Verbal Update)	June Milligan
9.	Agency Updates	All
10.	AOB Letter to Shadow Fire Minister	Chair
11.	Date of Next Meetings <u>2015</u> 11am Tuesday 19 th May 2015 @ a venue TBC 11am Thursday 17 th September BTP HQ Cardiff <u>2016</u> 11am Thursday 14 th January 2016 @ a venue TBC 11am Thursday 19 th May 2016@ a venue TBC 11am Tuesday 20 th September 2016@ a venue TBC	

JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES GROUP (JESG) MEETING
Time & Date: 1100hrs, Wednesday 28th January 2015
160 Infantry Brigade Headquarters, Brecon Barracks, Brecon.

Attendees:

CC Peter Vaughan (Chair)	South Wales Police	PV
CC Simon Prince	Dyfed Powys Police	SP
CC Jeff Farrar	Gwent Police	JF
Supt Andy Morgan	British Transport Police	AM
CFO Chris Davies	Mid & West Wales FRS	CD
Exempted under s23(1))		
Mr Gordon Roberts	WAST	GR
June Milligan	Welsh Government	JM
Lt Cmdr Jonathon Lee	RNLO	JL
Wg Phil Greville	RAFLO	PG
Col Lance Patterson	160 Bgde	LP
Col Kevin Davies	160 Bgde	KD
Lt Col Colin Chick	JRLO (Army) 160 Bgde	CCh
Supt Dick Knill	JESG	DK
Michelle Williams	JESG	MW

Via Telephone Conference

CC Mark Polin	North Wales Police	MP
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Apologies

CFO Simon Smith	NWFRS
CFO Huw Jakeway	SWFRS
Tracy Myhill	WAST
CC Paul Crowther	BTP
Cdr Jamie Miller	Royal Navy

1. Introductions and Apologies

1.1 LP welcomed everyone to the 160 Brigade HQ. The Chair thanked 160 Brigade for their hospitality and all the attendees at the first JESG meeting of the year. Introductions were made around the table for the purposes of new attendees and MP who joined via telephone conference.

1.2 Apologies were received as above.

2. Presentation – New arrangements for SAR Helicopters, Wg Commander Phil Greville RAFLO Wales

2.1 PG gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached to minutes) on the role out of the new SAR Helicopter arrangements for Wales. *[Please note we do not hold a copy of this presentation]*

2.2 (Exempt under s23(1) and 41(1))

2.3 (Exempt under s23(1) and 41(1))

3. **Minutes and Actions**

3.1 The Minutes from the last meeting were agreed, and the outstanding actions updated.

3.2 Flood Rescue Group; CD raised that he would be providing a business case to Welsh Government for continuation funding in order to maintain legacy and sustainability for flooding capability.

4. **MTFA Update**; (Exempt under s38(1)(a)&(b))

4.1 (Exempt under s23(1), 24(1) and s38(1)(a)&(b))

4.2 (Exempt under s23(1), 24(1) and s38(1)(a)&(b))

4.3 (Exempt under s23(1), 24(1) and s38(1)(a)&(b))

4.4 (Exempted under s23(1), 24(1) and s38(1)(a)&(b))

4.5 (Exempt under s23(1), 24(1) and s38(1)(a)&(b)).

Action – JM to continue to monitor national progress and issues.

Action- Exempt under s23(1) FoIA)

5. **Adverse Incident (AI)**

5.1 (Exempt under s41(1))

5.2 GR stated that the AI numbers reflected current and great pressure within Health. Clinical triage within WAST was changing and a new hub would be in place at Vantage point by the end of March. An interface needed to be established between the police control rooms.

5.3 (Exempt under s41(1))

5.4 At a previous meeting JESG had agreed to review an adverse incident case study which should be debriefed in order to learn lessons to move forward. It was agreed that it would still add value to do this.

Action- Craig Guilford to progress adverse incident case study

6 **JESG Coordinators' updates**

6.1 MW- Communications Programme Manager – MW circulated the Programme Manager's Update for note, of significance were the following:

6.2 MW thanks Welsh Government for their support in funding project JIGSO. This pilot will soon be exchanging information between Adult Social Service and the emergency services in South West Wales to allow for targeted advice to be made available. This will assist in keeping vulnerable adult safe by helping to prevent fire deaths in future. Additionally, the project will now be the repository for the recently made available over 65s GP data released by the NHS to the Fire & Rescue Service.

6.3 The Emergency Service Mobile Communication Programme recently cancelled Lot 4 (Extended Services) owing to a material change to the contract requirements. Negotiation with bidders continues, with Wales closely involved in the review of coverage and resilience which are of concern. The risks remain for Wales as outlined previously, however, there are some additional risks for note including the potential introduction of a delay of between three and six months due to embedding of a new Government, this could result in Wales being at the very end of rollout and left on the incumbent system alone for a period of six months. This business continuity issue is due to be discussed at the next Programme Board.

6.4 The ESMCP Strategy Group has recognised the importance of learning lessons from the rollout of Airwave, a paper is submitted with regards to cost avoidance strategies for assurance. JESG approved the direction of travel outlined in the report.

6.5 CD raised that he had not received a formal response to the Business Case which has been submitted to Welsh Government to support JESG with this vital piece of work. JM stated that she was unsighted on this but would request a response.

6.6 DK- Emergency Services Civil Contingencies Coordinator:

6.7 The JESIP programme is now in the transition phase which will end in March when it moves into the longer term arrangements for monitoring and improving blue light interoperability. Wales is assisting with a working group examining "Joint Operational Learning" and represented by Dyfed Powys LRF Coordinator Byron Wilkinson.

6.8 DK stated that he will be the point of contact in Wales for progressing the JESIP training through the WLDG and the Wales Gold/Silver training.

6.9 The JESIP Hydra exercise produced in Wales was being adapted nationally as part of the JESIP testing & exercising tool kit. All cost for development and running the exercise events are being claimed back from central JESIP funds.

6.10 Wales Gold Exercise; The final run of this version of the Wales Gold exercise will commence in February/March. A working group has been established to commence planning and start the creation of the next version of the Wales Gold Course that will run from 2016-2019 and now includes all of the LRFs in Wales.

6.11 Wales Gold Accreditation; DK referred to paper 7a that refers to recent debriefing on flooding in England where a gap in capability was identified in Gold Commanders in Civil Contingencies. The College Of policing Professional Committee are seeking an accreditation to close this gap.

6.12 DK explained that Wales is in a more advanced place than England on this matter and a highlight paper articulating the Wales experience has been drawn up to send to the College. DK detailed the differences between Wales Gold and the MAGIC course as

required from an action in November and held within paper 7b. He asked that the proposals within that paper were agreed and that all Blue Light Golds would undertake the accreditation offered as part of the Wales Gold Exercise. This was agreed.

7. Agency Updates

7.1 Welsh Government- JM stated that the profile of a number of issues were being raised in the approach of elections in May. However business would continue as normal up to the elections.

7.2 At the last WRF the Simpson Compact work was signed off, with an understanding that the agreed operational arrangements would remain a focus of attention going forward.

7.3 Planning was underway to deliver a catastrophic flooding exercise within the Bristol Channel. Exercise Megacyma would take place in Cardiff on the 10th March and involve South Wales and Gwent LRFs. Attendees from LRFs in England and COBR will also be present.

7.4 Tracy Myhill has been recently been honoured at a Stonewall Cymru event hosted by Welsh Government. She was named as “Role Model” of the year at held at the SWALEC stadium.

7.5 Royal Navy JL informed the meeting that a new deputy Commander to Commodore Jaimie Miller had been appointed. Commander Steve Henegan had replaced Tom Herman who had retired.

Next meeting 19th May 2015 at a venue to be confirmed.

JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES GROUP (JESG) MEETING**Time & Date: 11am Tuesday 19th May 2015****South Wales Fire & Rescue Headquarters, Llantrisant****AGENDA**

1.	Attendance & Apologies.	Chair
2.	Presentation- Joint Arson Group	AM Chris Margetts MWWFRS
3.	Minutes and outstanding actions following the meeting held 28th January 2015	Chair
4.	MTFA Update	Exempt under s23(1))
5.	Adverse Incidents Update	Michelle Williams
6.	ESMCP Programme Update	Michelle Williams
7.	JESG Coordinator Update	Dick Knill
8.	Welsh Government Update (Verbal Update)	Reg Kilpatrick
9.	Agency Updates	All
10.	AOB	Chair
11.	Date of Next Meetings <u>2015</u> 11am Thursday 17 th September @ a venue TBC <u>2016</u> 11am Thursday 14 th January 2016 @ a venue TBC 11am Thursday 19 th May 2016@ a venue TBC 11am Tuesday 20 th September 2016@ a venue TBC	

JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES GROUP (JESG) MEETING Time & Date: 1100hrs, Tuesday 19th May 2015 South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters, Llantrisant.
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Attendees:

CC Peter Vaughan (Chair)	South Wales Police	PV
ACC Simon Powell	Dyfed Powys Police	SP
C/Supt Peter Keen	Gwent Police	PK
CFO Chris Davies	Mid & West Wales FRS	CD
GM Chris Margretts	Mid & West Wales FRS	CM
Exempt under s23(1))		
Tracy Myhill	WAST	TM
Reg Kilpatrick	Welsh Government	RK
Kingsley Rees	Welsh Government	KR
Lt Cmdr Jonathon Lee	RNLO	JL
Col Kevin Davies	160 Bgde	KD
Lt Col Colin Chick	JRLO (Army) 160 Bgde	CCh
Supt Dick Knill	JESG	DK
Michelle Williams	JESG	MW

Via Telephone Conference

C/Supt Neil Anderson	North Wales Police	NA
CFO Simon Smith	North Wales FRS	SS

Apologies

CC Jeff Farrar	Gwent Police
CC Mark Polin	North Wales Police
CFO Huw Jakeway	SWFRS
Wg Phil Greville	RAFLO
Supt Andy Morgan	BTP
Cdr Jamie Miller	Royal Navy

1. Introductions and Apologies

1.1 PV welcomed everyone to JESG and thanked SWFRS for hosting the meeting. Introductions were made around the table and NA and SS who joined via telephone conference.

1.2 Apologies were received as above.

2. Presentation – Joint Arson Group, Chris Margretts MWWFRS

2.1 CM gave a PowerPoint presentation ([Please note we do not hold a copy of this presentation] on the Joint Arson Group (JAG) and its work programme.

2.2 CD discussed the need to reinvigorate the work of the JAG and proposed a new JESG strategic group that would be chaired by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer of Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. The strategic board would drive forward the work of JAG and report into JESG at each meeting.

2.3 Discussion was held over the enduring focus that would remain around grass fires and the JAG work was important going forward, and that the proposed structure would allow JESG to report into to the Wales Resilience Forum.

2.4 It was recognised that this was not just a South Wales issue and that it affected the whole of Wales. Consequently the proposal to create a “Strategic Board” was agreed.

3. **Minutes and Actions**

3.1 The Minutes from the last meeting were agreed with one addendum. CD highlighted that @ page three of the minutes from the 28th January that the minutes should reflect that M&WWFRS staff were from a “*different union*” and not as recorded “non” union.

4. **MTFA Update:** (Exempt under s23(1))

4.1 (Exempt under s24(1))

4.2 (Exempt under s23(1)) explained that the training needs analysis day that took place on the 23rd March was of great value, and set MTFA against a timeline in which crisis response through to recovery was considered.

4.3 (Exempt under s24(1))

4.4 (Exempt under s24(1)).

4.5 (Exempt under s24(1))

4.6 (Exempt under s24(1))

Action: (Exempt under s24(1))

5. **Adverse Incident (AI)**

5.1 MW gave an update on behalf of HJ. The AI working group had re-established itself in Southern Wales and the strategic group had run an excellent day on the 29th April where the model of clinical governance was discussed in depth. It was considered that the model could be used to good effect and that JESG should consider its adoption at the meeting today.

5.2 TM was grateful for the efforts made on the 29th and commended the work recognising that this was a challenging area. Currently work was also underway to assist with the hospital handovers reducing delays. The improvement being seen will hopefully continue. If the clinical model could be adopted and rolled out it would further assist progress.

5.3 DK advised the group that work was also underway to examine the technical and policy opportunities to allow image transfer and live Facetime/video to be harnessed and permit live conferencing between officers at scene and the clinical hub. That work was being progressed in a separate meeting in July.

5.4 The decision to adopt the clinical model was agreed by JESG.

6. JESG Coordinators' updates

6.1 MW gave her update on ESMCP. There are a number of key themes emanating from the Programme and there is now a greater understanding of the complexity involved including the cross lot procurement, number of sponsoring organisations, the delivery (e.g. the number of masts to be built) and the procurement generally.

6.2 (Exempt under s43(2))

6.3 The Full Business Case work continues but the programme has pushed to the right. The mobilisation period has been extended within the ITSB, for Lot 2 this has extended from 17 to 21 months from the effective date and for Lot 3 the 1st region can expect full coverage in 21 months with the remainder of the UK in 24 months.

6.4 A number of changes have occurred between the issue of the ITT and ITSB, these include a commitment by MNO's to Government to provide 90% geographic voice coverage, the target date for delivery of 4g across the UK has slipped. The knock on effect is that Wales will now be delivered 32 months after the effective date (ED) along with Scotland and the South West will now commence transitioning at 38 Months after ED. This gives us in Wales a little more surety with regards to business continuity with the incumbent supplier.

6.5 The JESG Strategy Group has reviewed all issued papers in readiness for FBC and their assurance response has been appended in the written update. Mott MacDonald's has conducted an options review for Wales and the synopsis is included in the papers. JESG BCL along with the other BCLs continues to influence decision making and ensuring a fit for purpose delivery.

6.6 (Exempt under s43(2))

6.7 It was agreed that JESG members would provide details of building or masts that are already in existence in Wales in order to assist in potentially mitigating the need to build new sites.

Action: MW to send out an information requirement document to initiate data collection.

6.8 Reg Kilpatrick added in relation to ESMCP that WG governance arrangements are in place, and this group will need to provide assurance before final business case is agreed. Welsh Government WG have pressed for coverage that will be as least as good as are currently experienced and that they will be seeking 100% coverage. There is currently no indication with regards to what the Treasury will grant and how spending any review will be translated.

6.8 Minister's will sign off the business case once Devolved bodies provide assurance. MW confirmed that this will be done through the strategy group.

6.9 Chris Davies confirmed that the business case to support MW submitted to Welsh Government had been approved with support of 50% grant funding, it was agreed that JESG members would provide the remaining 50% a total of £6,250 each.

6.10 Exempt under s 31(1)(a)

7 **DK (Emergency Services Civil Contingencies Coordinator)** referenced the update paper that had been circulated but highlighted a few points.

7.1 The 2015 Civil Contingencies Conference will take place on Thursday 8th October and again be hosted at Dyfed Powys SCC at Carmarthen. This year's themes will again focus of the tactical level and commence with progress reports on last years topics. Dr Kevin Pollack has been invited to discuss his paper that led to the JESIP programme that will then lead to a presentation by Solicitor Advocate Mark Scoggins on the importance of considered, appropriate and recorded decision making during a "crisis". The importance of the subject matter contained within these two presentations underpins the Wales Gold Course and its unique accreditation.

7.2 There will shortly be an inspection in Wales over the progress of JESIP being embedded into the blue light services and wider partnerships. The JESG coordinator is in contact with the HMIC on pulling a days presentation together in July this years for all the inspectoral interests across the three blue light services.

7.3 (Exempt under s23(1))

8. Welsh Government Update

8.1 Welsh Government; RK stated that work was underway with the Third Sector keen to work with government around Civil Contingencies. This was a helpful development and progress will be reported back as it develops.

8.2 The recent flooding exercise (Exercise Megachema) has been held at Cardiff in May and was based on the evacuation response to wide scale flooding in the South East cast of South Wales and Gwent. The event is being debriefed and will report into the Wales Flood Group.

8.3 There is to be a local risk planning workgroup on the 13th June where the Civil Contingencies Secretariat will visit Wales to discuss the new edition of the National Risk Assessment.

9 Agency Updates (by exception)

9.1. (Exempt under s24(1) and s(26(1)).

9.2 Army; C Ch stated that work was ongoing to support a number of international operations and that shortly he will receive support to his role as the JRLO.

9.3 WAST; TM stated that work was underway to improve their partnerships with wider responders and she remained grateful for the work that was going on with JESG.

10. AOB;

10.1 There was no declared AOB and PV closed the meeting by paying tribute to Dick Knill for the work that he had done in his time as the JESG coordinator.

Date of next meeting;

11am Monday 21st September 2015 at Cardiff Central Police Station.

JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES GROUP (JESG) MEETING
Time & Date: 2pm Monday 21st September 2015
Cardiff Central Police Station.

AGENDA

1.	Attendance & Apologies.	Chair
2.	Presentation- Nil	N/A
3.	Minutes and outstanding actions following the meeting held May 2015	Chair
4.	Joint Arson Group Verbal Update	CFO C.Davies
5.	MTFA Update	(Exempt under s23(1))
6.	Adverse Incidents Update	CFO Jakeway
7.	ESMCP Programme Update	Michelle Williams
8.	JESG Coordinator Update a) HMIC JESIP Review b) Managing Inter Service Demand (for mention)	Phil Ashby
9.	Welsh Government Update	Reg Kilpatrick
10.	Agency Updates	All
11.	AOB - Emerging issue Migrant Relocation	Chair CFO C.Davies
	Date of Next Meetings <u>2016</u> 11am Thursday 14th January 2016 @ a venue TBC 11am Thursday 19th May 2016@ a venue TBC 11am Tuesday 20th September 2016@ a venue TBC	

Joint Emergency Service Group

Minutes

Meeting Title:
JESG Meeting

Chair:
CC Peter Vaughan

Date of Meeting:	Venue of Meeting:
Mon 21 st Sept 2015	Cardiff Central Police Station, Cardiff

1. Attendance	Apologies:
Tracy Myhill (TM), WAST. Jonathan Lee (JL), Navy CFO Huw Jakeway (HJ), SWFRS CC Peter Vaughan (PV), SWP Phil Greville (PG), RAF (Exempt under s23(1)) Lt Col Colin Chick (CC), Army CC Jeff Farrah (JF), Gwent Reg Kilpatrick (RK), Welsh Government CC Simon Prince (SP), D-P CC Mark Polin (MP), NWP by Video Link Michelle Williams (MW), JESG Phil Ashby (PA), JESG	CFO Simon Smith, NWFRS CFO Chris Davies, MAWWFRS Supt Andy Morgan, BTP Peter Mizzen, MCA

2. Presentations
N/A

3. Minutes and Actions
Minutes of last minute were read and agreed. All outstanding actions had been completed. The Chair congratulated TM on permanent appointment to her role.

4. Joint Arson Group Update
Strategic Arson Reduction Group, Chaired by Mick Crennel Mid and West Wales FRS established and ToR's agreed. It will support the Welsh Government Grass Fire Summit action plan. The group has grown to include education probation and possible third sector to enhance preventative aspect. This group will update to WRF. Action: HJ to send PA current Action Plan Action: Each service preventative plan response to be sent to WG. PA to email all.

4. Joint Arson Group Update

5. MTFA

(Exempt under s23(1), 24(1) and s38(1)(a)&(b))

6. Adverse Incidents Update

Increase occurrences of reporting between WAST and SWP. This will be for practitioner group to review. Trial on going North Wales region, it commenced in September, the 'Reachback' trial. An evaluation will be prepared and presented to the AI Strategic group in the November meeting.

Weekly telephone conferences have been introduced to understand demand and increase communication between services in the Southern Area of Wales.

Early discussions are ongoing re information sharing from the scene, using smart technology with consent from individuals so photos can be shared for triage decision. Working up a proposal workflow to deal with this. TM offered support for this process, and commended HJ for his work and leadership in the adverse incident work being conducted.

There is a discrepancy in the way different organisations record adverse incidents; some of this is due to the free text field available in the recording tool. The recording tool is being changed to provide drop down menus to assist with consistency. The practitioners, particularly in South Wales are in the process of reviewing their recording to gather better intelligence.

TM confirmed that Clinical Response model being changed by WAST, 'hit the target missed the point', will look at clinical outcomes, clinical contact centre skill mix will be less call takers but more clinicians. This goes live from 1st October. Clinical desk is 24/7 to provide service.

PV queried is the reduction in North Wales due to pilot, combination of things have given the improvements through enhanced communications between Control rooms, lessons being learnt in pilot to the changes in process.

WAST Cwm Taf 'Explorer' pilot has seen a huge improvement in response, the health care element is being dealt with separately, in the process of rolling out the provision to Aneurin Bevan, ABMU will need to be looked at in light of new response model.

Group had brief discussion highlighting that adverse incidents amount small percentage but acknowledge risk associated if got it wrong. It was suggested as part of a communication strategy a demand profile be prepared that could be reported back now that a database was held.

Action: PA to progress demand profile with data

Will the new clinical model treat calls from fire and police be affected? Need to work through the detail. Prioritised in the same way, amber category need to be reviewed.

6. Adverse Incidents Update

Action: MW AI Practitioners Group to review.

Clinical desk now 24/7, the North Wales Clinical Reachback model could be extended anywhere in South Wales. Propose once data is available, explore within the bounds of the clinical model

Action: HJ to use AI Strategy Group November to roll out to the rest of Wales

7. ESMCP Programme

Key points:

ESMCP report for note.

Full business case approval is likely to be completed by the end of October, with finalising or assurance to Welsh Government being given via RK later this week, early next.

(Exempt under s43(2))

DEIT MAIT report for note

It is the first time that grass fire arson has been reported as it occurs and the first time this has resulted in arrests for deliberately starting grass fires. The emergency Services Collaboration Group is looking to provide a full time project manager to deliver this across the rest of England.

JIGSO report for note

An information sharing workshop has been arranged next week with Welsh Government, emergency services and Local Resilience Forums to establish how to use this data for evacuation purposes etc. Pilot area of MAWWFRS/D-P Police/ Ceredigion, Carmarthen and Pembroke LA's with regard information sharing on vulnerable persons. Pre-cursor toward:-

Emergency Services Information Sharing Hub

Initial scoping group has been established to investigate how key datasets required by control rooms and LRFs can be made available routinely, electronically and consistently as part of everyday operations using existing systems and infrastructure. First meeting planned for end of September 2015.

HJ raised the risk of continued funding for the Firelink contract to be added to the Welsh Risks.

Action: MW Ongoing risk re allocation of contract for Firelink funding to WG to be added to letter.

RK – WG have been in touch with the Permanent Secretary with regards to the suitability of Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology and they are now content

8. JESG Co-ordinator

Wales Resilience Conference

Update given.

JESIP

National review completed, will not go down to regional level. Initial findings shared with the group, focus

8. JESG Co-ordinator

on joint organisational learning, service still not demonstrating ways forward and learning. Review recommendations of report will not be published until November. Once done PA will look at scope JESIP and way forward for Wales.

Wales Gold Accreditation

Programme, test of package to be held 23rd & 24th November, then certified, for first course Feb 2016.

(Exempt under s23(1) and 41(1))

Inter-service demand

A Government paper recommending the establishment of these groups was presented and discussed. The Adverse Incident Strategic Group it was proposed met the requirement of this and could feed the national group. All agreed.

Police demand will need to be reviewed in collaboration with other organisations, this should include broad information flows and impact on each other's business etc..

Action: PA to re-evaluate Inter-service demand good practice.

9. Welsh Government

(Exempt under s23(1) and 41(1))

Grass fires: Minister continues to be keen, monthly report still required.

Exercise Megacyma: one aspect strategic to consider - SCG collaboration. A task and finish group to be established to review policy if collaboration were required between 2 SCG's.

Political – a white paper will be published in November with regard the recent proposals on local government reform and address fundamental issues such as local authority boundaries.

Police and Fire collaboration was raised by the group. A discussion in the group took place with regard Central Government consultation and Police and Fire collaboration proposal, when is it going to be discussed and WG position. RK stated PCC aren't devolved, and there isn't an appetite to do this in Wales. Whilst joint governance between devolved and non- devolved bodies would be challenging, this would not inhibit collaboration to continue and mature.

ACTION: JF to lead and establish task finish group to consider operational position/issues.

ACTION: RK to take to establish formal position of WG on matter.

10. Agency Updates

WAST – Tracy appointed permanently – establishing an executive team – recruitment of new director of ops – clinical response model change, measuring clinical outcomes and patient experience. Medical director presentation for next meeting.

Army

(Exempt under s23(1) and 41(1))

Air Force

PG updated group on SAR transition. Commenced 1st July, seamless transition. Busy July and August, Brisco private Contractor shortly starting flying from St Athan. RAF Airborne now ceased but will still have RAF mountain Rescue Team, still at 1hrs notice and possibly MAC P, which will be flown by coast guard helicopter. Civil rescue teams will have MOU.

Navy

JL gave Commodore James apologies, has had recent op. PV gave best wishes and hoped for speedy recovery.

(Exempt under s23(1) and 41(1))

11. AOB

Emerging migrant relocation, WG held summit, SP attended the summit with First Minister. A strategic group will be formed, Police will be part of this, importance of local co-ordination, impact other local services, wider role than policing and law enforcement, consulted on where they are going to be placed. Resettling in 4 authorities already, others keen to help but not geared up with housing education and health. Task and finish not needed yet. Await Ministerial chaired tactical group. PA to sit at operational board as JESG representative. PV thanked CD for item.

12. Next Meeting:

11:00am, 14th Jan 2016, Vantage Point, Cwmbran

Actions

Action	Owner	Update	Status
Joint Arson Group			
Action: HJ to send PA current Grass Fire Summit Action Plan	HJ	Forwarded	Complete – actions on track. Reporting to WG suspended for Winter months but to be re-introduced, and communication group established.
Action: Each tri-service preventative plan response to be sent to WG as per Grass Summit action plan. PA to email all	PA	Monitoring and liaising with WG.	Complete – all received.
MTFA			
(Exempt under s23(1), 24(1) and s38(1)(a)&(b))			
Adverse Incidents			
Action: PA to progress demand profile with data	PA	Data is difficult in current format to retrieve. A new system has been suggested, utilising current WAST system DATIX, which will be excel based and allow for detailed analysis. Will be progressed in new year.	Ongoing
Action: MW AI Practitioners Group to review	MW	Discussion with PA and HJ. In light of direction of group and its tactical level feeding strategic AI group, proposal chair passed to JESG co-ordinator to continue focus and develop good practice in this area. Thanks to MW on going work and commitment in this area.	Complete
Action: HJ to use AI Strategy Group meeting in November to roll out to the rest of Wales	HJ	On going. Liaising SWP for roll out at time convenient considering on going operational commitments.	On going

ESMCP			
Action: MW Ongoing risk re allocation of contract for Firelink funding to WG to be added to letter.	MW	Added	Complete
JESG Co-ordinator			
Action: PA to re-evaluate Inter-service demand good practice as highlighted in National paper.	PA	Those practices cited are already utilised in wales regional areas.	Complete
PCC/Fire Authority Consultation			
ACTION: JF to lead and establish task finish group to consider operational position/issues with regard police/fire collaboration consultation	JF		For Update
ACTION: RK to take to establish formal position of WG on matter of police/fire collaboration consultation	RK	These proposals only affect England. The Home Office's recent consultation is clear about this. Responsibility for the fire and rescue service is wholly devolved. Ministers would not accept a devolved service being controlled by a non-devolved office-holder, and the Minister for Public Services has already made this clear to the Home Secretary. Nonetheless, the Welsh Government fully supports greater co-ordination between the emergency services, but does not believe that giving Police and Crime Commissioners responsibility for the Fire Service in Wales is the best way to achieve that.	Complete
Agency Updates			
(Exempt under s23(1) and 41(1))			

JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES GROUP (JESG) MEETING**Time & Date: 11am Thursday 14th January 2016****Vantage Point, Cwmbran.****AGENDA**

1.	Attendance & Apologies.	Chair
2.	Presentation- a) New Clinical Decision Model b) Vortigen Legacy De-Brief/Red Kite Brief	Dr Whelan Dick Knill
3.	Minutes and outstanding actions	Chair
4.	Joint Arson Group Update	CFO C.Davies
5.	MTFA Update – Verbal Update	(Exempt under s23(1))
6.	Adverse Incidents Update	CFO Jakeway
7.	ESMCP Programme Update	Michelle Williams
8.	JESG Coordinator Update	Phil Ashby
9.	Welsh Government Update	Reg Kilpatrick
10.	Agency Updates	All
11.	AOB - PCC Police/Fire Consultation - Syrian Refugee Strategic Update - Joint Control Rooms - Invite: Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) - Local Search and Rescue Committees	Chair RK SP HJ JL PM
	<u>Date of Next Meetings</u> 2016 11am Thursday 19 th May 2016@ a venue TBC 11am Tuesday 20 th September 2016@ a venue TBC	

Annex A shows where each exemption has been engaged. This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of section(s) 23(1) “info supplied by security services”; s24(1) “national security”; s26(1) “defence”; s31(1)(a) “prevention or detection of crime”; s38(1)(a) & (b) “health and safety”; s41(1) “confidential information” and, s43(2) “Commercial interests”, of the FoIA and our subsequent consideration of the Public Interest Test.

When considering whether information should, or should not be released, we need to be blind as to the motives and interests the requester may have for seeking access to the requested information. Rather we need to consider the effects of putting the requested information into the public arena where it would be accessible by anyone, anywhere in the World. As such, it may be that the requester has a very real and genuine interest in obtaining the information, but that the wider public interest is that the information should not be made public and thus the information is withheld.

Engagement of section 23(1) “info supplied by, or relating to the security services”

The Welsh Government believes that the information contained within the minutes that we have identified that this exemption is being used should be exempt from disclosure. The information in question was, in some cases, provided indirectly by security services, and in other cases refer to the role of one, or more, of the security services.

This exemption is an Absolute exemption. That is, the information only needs to be supplied by, or relate to Security Services for the exemption to be properly applied. This exemption is not subject to the public interest test.

Engagement of section 24(1) “info required for the purpose of safeguarding national security”

The Welsh Government believes that the information contained within the minutes where we have identified that this exemption is being used should be exempt from disclosure. The information in question relates to the planning and readiness for the emergency services to respond to major incidents. Disclosure of such details would provide any individual or organisation that wishes to disrupt or otherwise interfere with the way in which such incidents are responded to. In addition the information, if released, would be likely to provide useful intelligence for those parties considering attacking the UK with details of how responses would be organised and allow them to better plan any such attacks to maximise the chances that such attacks would be successful.

Public Interest Test

This exemption is a Qualified exemption. That is, it is not sufficient for the exemption to be engaged but rather that the public interest in withholding the information should outweigh the public interest in disclosure.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

Although responsibility for the security of the UK lies with the UK Government, we all, including the Welsh Government have a role to play in ensuring that the emergency services are ready and prepared to react to any incidents that may occur. It is in the public interest that the public know such plans exist and that the emergency services are able to execute those plans. Disclosure would allow the public to scrutinise such plans to re-assure themselves that they are appropriate.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

Whilst there is a strong public interest in the public knowing the emergency services are ready and able to respond appropriately to any major incident that may occur, it is not in the wider public interest to make details of the plans for responding to such incidents public where they could be misused by individuals looking to attack the UK. The wider public interest is better served by ensuring that such plans are able to be carried through rather than disrupted by the actions of those out to attack the UK.

We are all aware that there are significant risks to the UK from terrorist organisations. The recent attacks in France and Belgium bring home just how serious the threat is. It is not in the public interest to provide those looking to attack the UK with information that would help them plan any attacks.

Balance of public interest test

I believe the balance of the public interest lies very strongly with non disclosure of any such information which may be useful to parties who may look to disrupt the responses of emergency services and as such the exemption should be applied.

Engagement of section s26(1) “Defence of the British Isles”

Although defence is not a devolved matter, it is incumbent on any tier of government to play its part in ensuring the defence of the country and its citizens. As with s24(1), detailed above, information marked as exempted under s26(1) of the FoIA would be likely to be of use to any individual or organisation looking to attack the UK.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

It is in the public interest that the public know that the Welsh Government and its partners work to ensure the defence of the UK and its citizens and that they plan and prepare for any attacks. Disclosure would allow the public to scrutinise such plans to re-assure themselves that they are appropriate.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

Whilst there is a strong public interest in the public knowing the Welsh Government and partners are prepared to assist with the defence of the country, it is not in the wider public interest to make, even slight or, apparently, innocuous, details of those plans for responding to such incidents public where they could be misused by individuals looking to attack the UK. The wider public interest is better served by ensuring that such plans are able to be carried through rather than disrupted by the actions of those out to attack the UK.

As highlighted above we are all aware that there are significant risks to the UK from terrorist organisations. It is not in the public interest to provide those looking to attack the UK with information that would help them plan any attacks.

Balance of public interest test

I believe the balance of the public interest lies very strongly with non disclosure of any such information which may be useful to parties who have threatened the UK and as such the exemption should be applied

Engagement of section s31(1)(a) “Prevention and detection of crime”

The information being withheld from disclosure under this exemption relates to the plans put in place by Emergency Services to protect the public from criminal activity. We believe that putting the information into the public domain, for everybody to access, would prejudice those plans and thus reduce their effectiveness.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

It is in the public interest that the public know that the Welsh Government and its partners work on the prevention and detection of crime. It is in the public interest to understand the processes adopted in the prevention and detection of crime to allow for public scrutiny and re-assure them that processes are accountable and appropriate.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

Whilst there is a strong public interest in the public knowing Emergency Services and partners have prevention and detection of crime processes in place to protect the public, it is not in the wider public interest to provide information revealing operationally sensitive information, which could allow individuals to build a picture of Emergency Services resilience and as such could facilitate crimes.

It is in the public interest to prevent crime within the UK, it is not in the public interest to provide those looking to undertake a criminal activity with information to help or assist with planning those activities..

Balance of public interest test

I believe the balance of the public interest lies very strongly with non disclosure of any such information which may be useful to parties who are looking to undertake criminal activities in the UK and as such the exemption should be applied.

Engagement of section s38(1)(b) “Endanger the safety of any individual”

As a result of their role, we believe that there is a very real risk to some individuals within the Emergency Services should information be made public. There is a high risk of individuals being targeted as a result, putting those individuals into dangerous situations and endangering their personal safety.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

It is in the public interest that the public know of issues which may impact them personally. It is in the public interest to understand the processes in ensuring health and individual safety is managed in such a way to make Emergency Services personnel safe and job ready. It allows public spending scrutiny, on the issues that affect personal safety to be considered and for objection/queries and argument for/against spend and value for money of public funds to be queried in order to ensure public bodies accountability.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

Whilst there is a strong public interest case in the public knowing where there may be endangerment to the safety of individual members of the Emergency Services, it is not in the wider public interest to provide information revealing operational vulnerabilities which could lead to attacks and/or criminal activity being carried out locally or nationally, presenting a risk to public safety, as well as the safety of individual members of the Emergency Services.

Balance of public interest test

Whilst there is a public interest in transparency - the public are entitled to know how public funds are spent, there is strong public interest in withholding the information. Transparency is key but it should not be to the detriment of individuals. Information should not be shared which could knowingly endanger the safety of any individual, public, or any individual working within the Emergency Services. I believe the balance of the public interest lies in non-disclosure of this information.

Engagement of section s41(1) “Information provided in confidence”

The information being withheld under this exemption was provided to the Group on a very strong understanding that the information was being provided to the Group in confidence and should be treated as such and not shared more widely.

It is, however, not sufficient to claim information is “confidential” for a duty of confidence to exist. Rather a duty of confidence can only exist where the information is shared in an arena where that confidence is implied or expressly given and the information itself has the necessary “quality of confidence”. Without this second condition being met, the first cannot exist.

There is no set definition of what constitutes a “quality of confidence”. However case Law indicates that for such a quality to exist the information must not be trivial or be available by other legitimate means. The information must also be worthy of protection.

We/I believe that the information in question here should be protected from wider disclosure and that that was recognised at the time the information was shared with the Group. As such I believe that a duty of confidence does exist as far as the handling, and thus dissemination, of this information is concerned.

For the s41(1) exemption to be engaged it is not, however, enough that a duty of confidence exists but that there is a very real prospect that, if we release the information, we would be subject to a legal action for breach of confidence. Given the nature of the information I

believe it is almost certain we would be taken to Court for a breach of confidence if we were to release this information in response to this request.

This exemption is an Absolute exemption. That is, there only needs to be a realistic of an actionable breach of confidence for the exemption to be properly applied. This exemption is not subject to the public interest test.

Engagement of section s43(2) “Commercial interests”

This exemption exists to protect the legitimate commercial interests of any organisation. For the exemption to be engaged, disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice an organisations ability to engage fairly in commercial activities. Those activities could be the purchased of goods or services or selling goods and services.

As far as the information caught by this request is concerned, this information held is currently within the tendering and development phase and therefore has not been made public. I believe that disclosure of this information at this point in time would prejudice the relevant authorities’ ability to conduct any such tendering exercises fairly. Disclosure of the total amounts of money set aside for a project would be used by those looking to submit bids to cost their bids close to that sum. This would be very likely to result in most bids being made at a similar value and the relevant authorities’ ability to obtain the best value for money for the contracts to be severely hindered compared to a tender exercise undertaken where the amount of funding set aside was not publicly known.

When deciding whether the release of information I have considered the public interest test and the test of prejudice.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure

It is in the public interest to act as transparently as possible. The strongest reason for disclosing information is the accountability of public funds as the public are entitled to know how public funds are spent. Transparency of decisions on how public funds are spent will also generate confidence in the integrity of the procedures involved and provide assurances that the public are getting value for money.

This type of information would allow the public to gauge the use of public funds in carrying out national security obligations, and would provide transparency regarding the level of capability in Wales, adding to the accuracy of the public awareness in this area.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

Whilst there is clear a strong public interest in the public being able to scrutinise public sector contracts to ensure public funds are spent well, and appropriately, that wider public interest does not extend to the disclosure of information which runs contrary to that aim. It is not in the wider public interest to effectively, place handicaps on public authorities by publishing information which would have a negative influence on the value of bids submitted. Nor is it it in the wider public interest that some public authorities, having had information released as a result of a FoI request, is put at a disadvantage when compared to other public authorities where such information has not been released.

Balance of public interest test

In deciding whether or not disclosure of the commercially sensitive information would be likely to cause prejudice it has been necessary to judge, the nature of the harm that would be caused and, the likelihood of that harm. While the “prejudice” that may be caused by disclosure may not be substantial nor trivial, there must be significant risk rather than a remote possibility of prejudice. I believe the prejudice to be substantial.

I believe the balance of the public interest lies in withholding the information until such time as the tendering process has ceased and the procurement process open to public scrutiny.