

**Devolution of Policing in Wales Policy**

**Version 1**

**2023**

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| The PFEW Policy Department has embarked on a concerted effort to formulate and/or revise policy documents, titled "Policy Refresh", on key topics concerning its members.  These strategic documents are evidence-based, aligned with PFEW's Business Areas, as well as championed by National Board members.  It is aimed for PFEW to maintain clear policy positions on key topics, that allows members to have clarity on PFEW's official position statements that are backed by evidence.    If you have any comments or queries, please direct them to  [Bahar.Munim@polfed.org](mailto:Bahar.Munim@polfed.org) |
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**Devolution of policing in Wales**

# 1. Policy statement

Wales has just under 7,487 police officers for a population of around 3.2 million people. Huge cuts in the number of serving police officers mean that the people of Wales no longer have the police service they deserve or should expect. Any move to devolve policing in Wales should be done purely with the aim of improving the service to the public.

**2. Responsibility**

The National Board is responsible for all policy formation.

# 3. Summary

Wales has just under 7,487 police officers[[1]](#footnote-2) policing a population of around 3.2 million compared to just over 16,570 officers[[2]](#footnote-3) in Scotland policing a population of around 5.5 million.

PFEW remains neutral on the devolution of policing to Wales.

Any move to devolve policing in Wales should be done purely with the aim of improving the service to the public. PFEW believes that whatever change is proposed, locally or nationally, now and in the future, it is essential that the Police Federation England and Wales and the PFEW Welsh Affairs Business Area are consulted and listened to.

Should Welsh devolution of policing occur, PFEW expects that there will be no detriment to the Police Officers of Wales with regards to their terms and conditions. Nor should the delivery of service to Members of the Public be adversely affected.

We are clear that if policing becomes a devolved policy area that it must be done to improve the public service provided. The sustaining of the current service is not good enough. To get to that position takes resources and the ‘ownership’ of the role of policing by a dedicated Wales policing minister. We need a system that is accountable and allows the public to have absolute confidence in the police. This includes collating Welsh crime figures accurately, ethically, and candidly.

PFEW believes that policing could be devolved to Wales without the need to devolve other parts of the Criminal Justice System.

**4. Procedures/implementation**

If the Governments in Cardiff and Westminster agree to devolve policing in Wales, PFEW will play a full part in ensuring any transition is made effectively and smoothly for the benefit of the public and our members.

Responsibility is delegated to the National Secretary and/or the appropriate sub-committee.

Approved by National Board on: **21 February 2023**

Review: **February 2024 (TBC)**

1. Police workforce numbers, England and Wales, September 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Police officer numbers, Scotland, December 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)