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South Wales Police
Police Headquarters
Cowbridge Road
Bridgend
CF31 3SU

Mr Aled Gruffyd
Senior Coroner
Swansea Neath & Port Talbot

09 January 2026

Dear Senior Coroner Gruffyd,

South Wales Police offer its sincerest sympathies to Mr Lewis' family on this case. South Wales Police also acknowledge the concerns raised regarding the crewing of Road Policing Unit (RPU) officers during pursuits and specifically in relation to the case of Alexander Rhys Lewis. Our current operational model and training standards are designed to ensure public safety, officer competence, and compliance with national guidance.

Training and Operational Practice

Police pursuit training, as delivered under the College of Policing's Police Driving National Policing Curriculum (PDNPC) to all national forces, reflects real-world operational conditions. During both Initial Phase Pursuit (IPP) and Tactical Phase Pursuit (TPP) training, officers operate single-crewed, even when accompanied by an instructor, so that they replicate day-to-day working practices. This approach ensures officers are fully prepared for the responsibilities they will assume in live operations.

While single-crewed, officers are trained to:

- Receive and process intelligence to build a dynamic picture of the subject vehicle and driver.
- Deliver accurate commentary using the National Surveillance Glossary, enabling other units to position effectively for tactical intervention.
- Manage the Tactical Phase, which includes high-speed driving, commentary, tactical use of lights and sirens, and implementation of pursuit resolution tactics.
- Continuously apply the eight pursuit considerations and produce Dynamic Risk Assessments (DRAs) that reflect evolving circumstances.
- Make real-time decisions on proportionality and justification for continuing or terminating the pursuit.

Prif Gwnstabl |

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg. Byddwn yn ymateb yn eich iaith o ddewis.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. We will respond in your language of choice.



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National Standards and Professional Guidance

The prescribed minimum requirements for police driver training are set by the NPCC and College of Policing and aligned with Authorised Professional Practice (APP). Officers engaging in pursuits must complete both IPP and TPP training. Since April 2024, the College has introduced licensing for training providers to further professionalise standards. These measures ensure officers meet the highest professional standards and safeguard the public.

APP guidance requires that any decision to pursue is necessary, proportionate, and balanced against threat, risk, and harm to all parties. Decisions remain operational and must consider risk factors and proportionality throughout.

Resourcing and Operational Realities

Adopting a default position of double-crewing vehicles for pursuits would significantly reduce South Wales Police's ability to maintain specialist roads policing coverage across the wider network. Our challenge is to fully address the concerns raised in the Reg 28 notice while safeguarding our statutory duty to serve the broader South Wales community and manage wider risk.

When setting crewing models, we must strike a balance between operational effectiveness and resource availability. To sustain a strong capability for pursuits and TPAC tactics across the road network, single crewing remains the most practical option given the number of vehicles and trained officers required. This approach enables us to respond effectively to both planned and spontaneous incidents while maintaining public safety and operational resilience.

As a force, we continually assess resources to ensure capability and capacity are maintained across the area. We are confident in the national training both initial and refresher undertaken by our officers, which equips them to carry out Dynamic Risk Assessments and make informed decisions, including standing down when risk outweighs benefit. We fully support officers in exercising this professional judgment.

Post-Pursuit Review and Continuous Learning

South Wales Police have robust post-pursuit review processes, bringing together the Driving Training Unit (DTU) and operational teams to examine tactics and circumstances and embed learning. This ensures continuous improvement and reinforces our commitment to public safety and officer professionalism.

In addition, following the Independent Office for Police Conduct investigation into Mr Lewis' death, the investigation was not subject to special procedures, however we will continue to focus on continuous improvement in relation to pursuits as highlighted above.

Yours sincerely



Temporary/Assistant Chief Constable