

**GWENT POLICE**  
**GWENT POLICE DOG SECTION**  
**POLICY**



Heddlu  
Gwent  
Police

## **1.0 Aims of Policy**

Gwent Police aim to ensure that Police Dogs and their Handlers are trained to the agreed National Standard and are licensed within the guidelines set by ACPO and the Home Office.

Gwent Police will ensure that an Animal Welfare regime is employed in accordance with ACPO guidelines.

It is the policy of Gwent Police to use Police Dogs as a proactive or reactive tactical option to improve and support the effectiveness of patrolling officers. They will be deployed together with trained handlers either on foot or in vehicles. Gwent Police Dogs will be a combination of General Purpose Dogs capable of performing public order roles, criminal work and tracking, and Specialist Search Dogs. Specialist search dogs may be capable of searching for explosives, firearms, narcotics and currency.

Police dogs may be used in the following circumstances: -

- Public reassurance
- Searching buildings or enclosed areas for suspects
- Detaining suspects
- Tracking from the scene of a crime or incident
- Searching open areas for suspects, missing person or property
- Narcotic detection searches
- Explosive detection searches
- Currency detection searched
- Firearms detection searches
- Non-lethal options at Firearms incidents
- Tactical options at Public Disorder
- Containment options at scenes of disorder/firearms incidents

This policy is the overriding document which is supported by the Gwent Police Manual Relating to Police Dogs, which ensures that the above capability is maintained and outlines the procedures Gwent Police follow in support of the guidelines within the ACPO Manual of Guidance.

**PRINTED VERSIONS SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON. THE MOST UP TO DATE VERSION CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTRANET POLICIES SITE. A LINK WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE POLICIES SITE TO THE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TO THIS POLICY.**

## **2.0 The Legal Basis**

The legal basis for Dog Deployment is contained within a number of Acts, predominantly that of use of Force, as contained within the following: -

- Common Law
- Section 3 Criminal Law Act 1967
- Section 117 The Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984
- The Human Rights Act

Legal basis for deployment within the Narcotics and Explosive detection can be found within The Misuse of Drugs Acts and The Prevention of Terrorism Acts.

## **3.0 Human Rights Certificate of Compliance**

The policy has been checked for compliance with the Human Rights Act; with particular reference to the legal basis of its precepts: the legitimacy of its aims; the justification and proportionality of the actions intended by it; that it is the least intrusive and damaging option necessary to achieve the aims; and that it defines the need to document the relevant decision making process's and outcomes of actions.

## **4.0 Compliance with The Welsh Language Scheme**

This policy should aims to comply with the organisations Welsh language Scheme in terms of dealing with the Welsh speaking public, impact upon the public image of the organisation and the implementation of the language scheme.

## **5.0 Risk Assessment and health and safety Considerations**

The Gwent Police Service Dynamic Assessment should be applied as necessary. A training package in the use of risk assessment will be provided to all police personnel if requested or required.

## **6.0 Identification Section**

**Policy Title: Police Dogs**

**Reference: 130/1 b issue 2**

**Underlying Document: Gwent Police Dogs Manual**

**Policy Ownership: Operations Support Department**

**Portfolio/Business Area Owner: ACC**

**Policy Written By: Dog Section Sergeant**

**Department Responsible:**

**Policy Lead: Sergeant, Dog Section**

Links to other Policies/Procedures: ACPO Manual of Guidance on Police Dog Training & Care, Health & Safety, Use of Force, ACPO Manual of Guidance on Keeping the Peace, Drugs - Seizure, Storage, Disposal and Destruction of Controlled Drugs, The Fairness at Work Procedure, Lay Observers policy, National Intelligence Module (NIM), Searching of Premises, Guidance on Search Manual and Procedures, Gwent Police Authority 3-year Strategic Plan, ACPO 3-year National Police Dog Strategy, Explosives Search Dog Manual of Guidance

**Policy Implementation Date: OPG 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007 reviewed September 09.**

**Policy Review Date: 2 years from implementation**