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Carolyn Thomas MS  
Welsh Parliament  
Petitions Committee  
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

DECS Reference: MIN/1338919/25

2 September 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 4 June regarding petition P-06-1463 on the funding of the School Beat Cymru programme. I am very sorry for the delay in replying. I note the Petitions Committee's consideration of this issue and its decision to close the petition, as well as the commendation of the Welsh Government for funding the programme to date.

As you will be aware, policing is a reserved matter under the Welsh devolution settlement. Decisions relating to the delivery of local policing initiatives in Wales, including the provision of programmes such as School Beat Cymru, remain the operational responsibility of Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners. The Government is committed to giving police the resources they need to tackle crime. The 2025-26 police funding settlement provides funding of up to £19.6 billion for the policing system in England and Wales, an overall increase of up to £1.2 billion when compared to the 2024-25 settlement.

While the Welsh Government has chosen to withdraw its funding for the School Beat Cymru programme, it is of course open to local policing bodies to determine whether and how such activity is prioritised within their force areas.

I appreciate the Committee's interest in this matter and its recognition of the importance of community engagement between schools and policing partners.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP**  
**Minister of State for Policing and Crime Prevention**