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Chief Inspector Dan Howe

Head of Partnerships, Cardiff and Vale, South Wales Police Night Time Economy Lead

As the police lead for licensing and community safety in Cardiff, and the force lead for the night time economy, I am proud of the capital city's strong international reputation as a cultural centre and leading venue for major events.

This attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year from around the world, and makes a major contribution to the Welsh economy and our national life. It is important to recognise that Cardiff is one of the safest cities in the UK, and that the overwhelming majority of people meet and socialise responsibly, supported by the professional approach of partner agencies and the licensed trade.

However, it is still the case that drinking to excess, combined with the unlawful use of controlled drugs can often lead to violence and wider harms. In our role as police, to maintain the capital's safety and security we rely upon statutory powers, shared priorities and joined up working across the community safety partnership.

There is no better example of the success of this approach than the cumulative impact policy, which has consistently contributed to maintaining the character of the city centre with its diverse offering of culture, nightlife, bars and restaurants. This is part of what makes Cardiff unique, with international sporting events, world-famous entertainment, history and the arts all hosted within a compact and vibrant city centre.

The risks associated with excessive alcohol consumption and the impact this has on creating increased pressure on public services are well documented, and it is often the most vulnerable who suffer the greatest harm. To this end, we have worked to identify and address these threats; serious crime, violence against women and girls and the exploitation of young people.

One concerning trend within the city centre is the developing problem associated with daytime street drinking. While many aspects of crime and disorder which affect the city centre can be linked to alcohol consumption, much of this demand is presented over a clearly defined period; principally the weekend night time economy. The partnership approach that has been adopted in Cardiff addresses this through targeted engagement, support and enforcement and benefits from the involvement of security staff, Street Pastors and Taxi Marshals alongside the work of statutory agencies and volunteers.

Street drinking, however, is notable in that its impact is frequently apparent during daytime hours when the city's focus is directed towards its economic, retail and employment function as a national capital. The wider risks that are associated with street drinking creates continuous challenges for Police and our NHS partners in addition to the impact on perceptions of anti-social behaviour which are felt by businesses, visitors and residents.

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Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



Much of Cardiff's temporary accommodation provision operates on an alcohol-free basis, and as such the combination of an appealing and accessible public realm with available off-licence sales contributes to the city centre's attraction as a venue for street drinking with the consequences apparent in incidents of violence and vulnerability.

The antisocial behaviour trends included in the Cardiff & Vale BCU offence statistics report are a reliable indicator of the high volume of demand upon police and partners from daytime street drinking.

Cardiff's has a broad international appeal as a sporting and cultural venue with attractions including stadia, museums, music venues and nightlife. As such we welcome millions of people every year from around the world, and on major event days Cardiff often hosts more than a hundred thousand visitors. To manage this safely and maintain our strong reputation as a destination for tourism, education and commerce, police and partners work to organise and implement measures including road closures, transport and security.

This requires both the establishment of full-time planning teams to manage the annual cycle of events and deployment of extra officers and staff on the ground and in command and control roles. Typically, there are more than forty major event days a year and this number can be even higher when hosting events such as the Champions League Final, Rugby World Cup and the NATO conference. This is why it is important that recognition is given by licensees to the additional licensing requirements that apply on these days.

The cumulative impact policy has been founded upon strong evidence and makes a significant contribution to keeping the capital city safe, by ensuring that the responsible authorities are able to uphold the licensing objectives and deliver the high standards that Cardiff is known for. As such we will continue to give this policy our full support alongside our commitment to ensuring the safety and reassurance of our communities.



Chief Inspector Dan Howe
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