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## **INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION Section UK – No 4 (Wales) Region And South Wales Branch**

The International Police Association (IPA) is a worldwide organisation whose base line principle and Motto is, “Service Through Friendship”.

The membership is made up of both serving and retired employees of the Home Office Police Forces and the National Crime Agency (NCA), including all levels of Staff.

The IPA is a Non-Governmental Organisation and does not investigate Crime nor in-Force welfare issues or national policies.

In Section UK, membership is open to serving and retired Police Officers of all ranks, Special Constables, PCSO’s and members of Police Staff employed by a Chief Constable or other appropriately designated Chief Officer of the Police Service or National Crime Agency.

The Section therefore has a unique mixture of both Police and NCA personnel who are still serving, retired, or in some instances, who have voluntarily resigned from the police service.

The South Wales Branch is extremely honored that Mr. Jeremy Vaughan, Chief Constable of South Wales Police and Ms. Pam Kelly BA, Chief Constable of the Gwent Police Force, have each accepted the role of Branch Joint Patron, continuing a tradition that stretches back many years.

As a Wales Region we are also pleased to be able to say that for the North Wales Branch Chief Constable Mr. Carl Foulkes, has accepted a similar role, and in the Dyfed Powys Branch Mr. Richard Lewis the Chief Constable of the Force area has also taken on the appointment as Branch Patron.

**IPA No 4 (Wales) Region** consists of three Branches, each covering the specific Police areas, namely, North Wales, South Wales (including Gwent) and Dyfed Powys.

**The South Wales Branch** currently has a growing membership, consisting of both serving and retired Police Officers and Police Staff from within the South Wales and Gwent Forces, together with MOD, BTP and NCA officers.

Each Region and Branch has an elected Executive Committee conforming to the IPA Section UK Constitution and Rules. The South Wales Branch holds two or three ‘formal’ Branch meetings a year, together with additional social activities. Usually the formal meetings will include standard business matters, often followed by a guest speaker on varied subjects. We have made it a policy that husbands, wives, partners and friends are welcome to attend all activities and meetings, unless certain official matters prevent this.

Examples of the content of a ‘formal’ meeting include a demonstration of the 41st Foot Military re-enactment Society, signing everyone up for the war against the French in Canada, a presentation by our member Mr, Jeff Norman who spoke on the subject of Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking, and member Howard Tucker C.B.E, spoke of his experiences as head of Investigations for the Bosnia War Crimes Commission. As regards external professional speakers we twice welcomed Dr Rhian Morgan of the Genetics Department of the University Hospital in Cardiff who spoke on the identification of the skeletal remains of Richard 111 in a



car park in Leicester, then later Rhian made a return visit to speak on the use of DNA profiling in criminal investigations. We also try to offer more lighthearted on-line presentations that have included the history of the ancient town of Llantrisant and their renowned Longbowmen at the Battle of Crecy, also the story of the rise of the Welsh Male Choirs. The Branch and Region alike are constantly on the lookout for new and interesting speakers on subjects that might appeal to wide and diverse range of members interests. At the start of 2022 the Branch has currently arranged for speakers on subjects including the Investigation and Prevention of Money Laundering in Commerce, the work of the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC), also the use of Forensic Examination in Police Investigations.

The IPA Section UK provides social activities at an individual, Group or family level, including local and international trips, holidays, sporting events, and competitions.

There are several specific Special Interest Groups (SIG's) whose subjects range from Caravan and Camping, Golf, Motor Cycling, a Writers Group, the large and active Family History Group and notably the Defensive Tactics Group. This latter group was formed in recent years by a North Wales member and then serving officer, Rob Stenhouse. He felt that there was a need to provide additional high levels of defensive skills training for officers faced with confrontational situations. The Group has gained such a reputation for its high professional standards that Rob has run five days international courses for police units in Gimborn (Germany), Poland plus in the USA providing presentations to police operational units.

Professional Development (PD) educational opportunities of an internationally high standard, together with professional exchanges now play an important role within the IPA. The PD facility offers members, both retired or serving officers and Staff, the opportunity to attend five-day seminars on wide ranging police related topics, with presentations by experts in their particular field. Usually these are dual language seminars held at the IPA International Conference Centre at Gimborn near Cologne. Seminars listed include subjects such as Terrorism, Cyber Crime, Tactical First Aid, and Police Street Survival Training, although various shorter courses are also arranged at the Centre and in the UK.

Examples of the UK seminars have recently included one and two-day presentations on Cyber Crime at Coventry University, whilst we have a series of four separate one day seminars being held at various Police Headquarters around the country entitled 'Street Gang to Organised Crime'. We are currently in discussions within South Wales and Gwent to host such seminars at the two Headquarters. These particular seminars have also been expanded into a five-day seminar at Gimborn with specialist police officers from the UK, Russia and the USA as speakers. It can therefore be seen that we attempt to not only offer Presentations in subjects that are relevant to Police Officers and Police Staff alike, but we use speakers with highly professional and practical knowledge. The facility at Gimborn carries the internationally recognised ISO Certificate.

Currently, the Section UK is running a series of free Webinars for members, called 'Crossing Borders'. These are presentations by both UK and International speakers on various aspects of Policing around the world. In 2022 we have already received presentations from the SIO of the ongoing police investigation of the Grenfell Fire, which as might be expected was extremely emotional, particularly with regard to the stress and wellbeing factors for the Police Officers. In a similar vein we have had a presentation on the organisation of Major Incident Rooms in various parts of the world with particular regard to the Disaster Victim Identification, not necessarily resulting from crime.

For IPA members who have paid their first membership renewal here in the UK, there is a



financial support of £250 once every two years to meet the cost of the Gimborn fees. In addition, IPA Region Wales will offer an additional £50 every two years to attend seminars in the UK or at Gimborn, and each of the three Welsh Branches offer a similar amount.

In keeping with the international aspect of the IPA, there is a bi-annual international seminar held in various parts of the world for young police officers. In recent years it was hosted by IPA Region Scotland, and in fact the Dyfed Powys Branch was fortunate at one time to have one of their serving members attend such a seminar in Australia for a week, funded in the main by the IPA.

For the serving members, there are opportunities for international professional exchanges (ILDEP). This is becoming an extremely popular style of gaining a much wider experience of international policing methods and Section UK frequently receive applications from officers based in Poland, Germany and the Netherlands who wish to spend one or two weeks working within a UK Police Force to understand specific styles of policing. An example was Hanna Weith, a Police Officer and IPA member from Baden-Wuerttemberg in South-West Germany, spent a week working with the South Wales Police Youth Offending Service (YOS) at Bridgend and Cardiff. The South Wales Police have for several years been separately hosting international officers and whilst the IPA do not become involved in those specific arrangements, we do endeavour to meet socially with them where possible. Whilst the IPA does not offer financial assistance in ILDEP applications, we do assist by arranging accommodation where necessary and providing social activities when off duty. It is hoped that the hosting Police Force would then encourage a local officer to carry out an exchange under the same arrangements.

In addition to all of this, the member's family is not forgotten. For young people within the family of IPA members and who are aged between 16 and 17 years, there is a bi-annual international cultural visit of seven days, the most recent one being in August of 2019 and held in the UK. In 2020 it was held in Croatia.

The benefits of individual police participation are many. Chief Constables across the UK are striving to provide greater Wellbeing support to their Officers and Staff. They have identified that the IPA is one of the few environments where people can meet like-minded in safe and secure social outlets. As a member you will be making new friends, both in the UK and on an international level, with the opportunity to learn about professional policing practices and cultures in other countries. You may also receive local help and guidance when travelling abroad socially. The IPA also has a range of high-quality houses and apartments available for rent throughout the world on a self-catering basis at extremely economical rates. For the retired police family, the IPA offers another opportunity to stay in touch with former work colleagues in addition to meeting new friends in the UK and also when travelling abroad.

Informal social activities in South Wales have included visits to the Christmas Markets in Cologne, Bonn, Antwerp and Brussels, river cruises, volunteering at International Association of Women's Police Conference in Cardiff, a weekend at Snowdon, a visit to the Senedd in Cardiff, plus annual visits to the Abergavenney Food Festival. We have held a weekend activity that included a visit to the Royal Mint, followed by an evening meal in Abergavenney and then on the Sunday morning a visit to the Big Pit and the Blaenavon Iron Works. Many of our members have assisted at the National Police Memorial Day events in Cardiff. Through 2020 we had a number of social items planned, ranging from a three-night link with Section Ireland across in Tralee and Waterford, through to a visit to the Penderyn Distillery, the Mumbles RNLI Station, a World Wildlife wetland sanctuary, plus a pub quiz and meal. That



postponed programme will hopefully resume as soon as restrictions fully permit.

On the International scene, as a Branch we are twinned with the IPA Region of Mechelen, near Antwerp in Belgium. Plus, we have strong ties with the IPA Region in Vancouver Island, Canada, and Wellington in New Zealand. Finally, as mentioned previously, the IPA Wales Region is twinned with IPA Section Ireland, and the South Wales Branch twinned with Wexford and Tipperarey Counties. Each of these actions raises the principle of International Friendship to a new high.

Being the Capital City of Wales, Cardiff and the immediate area is frequently called upon to host international IPA visitors, both for one day and often longer visits. The Branch has hosted friends from Canada, Republic of Ireland, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa Germany and Spain. Many of the visitors are carrying out family research and we become heavily involved in that activity. We have previously hosted Police Inspector Saori Kimura from Japan, whilst she attended and spoke at a European Crime Conference in Cardiff. Thanks to the kind assistance of the Chief Constable, we arranged a full morning visit to the Cardiff Bay Police Station where Inspector Kimura took the opportunity to meet with female officers and discuss the both the professional and cultural differences for women officers in the UK and Japan.

Whilst we do attempt to accommodate the wishes of visiting international members to view police stations within our area, we are mindful of operational demands within the City and therefore restrict such requests to serving officers who have a genuine interest in the working systems of UK policing.

We hope that this document will provide you with an outline of and brief information relating to the IPA, particularly in the immediate South Wales area, plus the Wales Region.

Further information and the online membership application form may be found at the main IPA Section UK website <http://www.ipa-uk.org>.

Alternatively for further local information, contact the Branch / Region Secretary directly, Denis Hunt, at [d.hunt3@ntlworld.com](mailto:d.hunt3@ntlworld.com) .

Currently within the South Wales Force, Mr. John Nelson, an investigator based within the RART may answer routine questions regarding the IPA opportunities, whilst in the Gwent Police Force, Inspector Jitka Tomkova-Griffiths is the main point of contact.

As you are likely to be reading this on the basis of an initial introduction to the IPA, you will no doubt have a basic starter question. Namely:

“How much does it cost?”.

There is an initial joining fee of £40.

There is then an annual renewal fee of £32 which is paid at or around 7th January each year. Both single payments are by way of Direct Debit. There are no additional Branch fees other than perhaps the costs of certain local events – some of which receive a substantial subsidy.

These figures may seem considerable at first sight. But consider this. How many clubs or organisations will repay you £250 on alternate years to attend professional seminars that will



not only greatly enhance your knowledge and skills as a police officer, but also build up a substantial list of international contacts and friends. What other organisation has a range of very good quality self-catering IPA Houses and Apartments across the world available for you and your family to rent at extremely competitive rates.

Although we are not a Home Office linked organisation, our members are all either serving or retired officers and Police Staff, each with a wide range of professional skills for you to draw upon.

There is currently a review as to possibly spreading the renewal fees over several payments throughout the year.

We really look forward to receiving your membership application, using either the attached copy, or preferably, on the IPA Section UK website, which you should complete and forward direct online at: [www.ipa-uk.org](http://www.ipa-uk.org)

Please ensure that you include your own personal email address, together with your allocated .pnn.police email address. We would only use your personal email as the primary point of contact, thereby ensuring that any IPA material we send you with attachments will not be blocked by the internal Force Firewall. The identification of a police email address is also a way of our ensuring that you are a serving officer or Police Staff, in the case of such applicants.

We look forward to meeting you soon as an IPA member.

In Friendship.

The officers of the South Wales Branch Executive.

**January 2022**