



Independent Advisory Group (IAG) FAQs

Why do we have IAGs?

Establishing IAGs was one response to the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report recommendations published in 1999 that the police needed to: “increase trust and confidence in policing amongst minority ethnic communities”.

This was later expanded to embrace diversity more broadly and groups covering race, disability and sexual orientation soon became the most common forms of IAG.

Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) also acknowledges that it is good practice for forces to actively engage with their communities through IAGs.

In South Wales the IAG will play a crucial part in helping us achieve our vision of: “being the best at understanding and responding to the needs of all our communities.”

What does an IAG do?

Acting as voluntary ‘critical friends’, IAG’s assist the police in understanding the impact of their services within diverse communities. They provide an opportunity to sense check existing and proposed policies and procedures to help identify any potentially adverse impact.

IAGs consider both local and strategic issues such as stop and search figures and hate crime statistics and can be used to develop the most appropriate resolutions to local and force wide issues.

Advice and support from IAGs following a critical incident is very important as it can not only help to reassure the community but to also gain a better understanding of the problem. Involving IAGs at the earliest opportunity in a critical incident can prevent increased community tensions and facilitate an open and transparent dialogue with communities.

Who are the members of an IAG?

IAGs are made up of members of our diverse communities from various backgrounds who have an interest in the community and how it is policed. Membership seeks to reflect the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010.

Members are not expected to be a spokesperson for any particular community but should bring their own personal lived experiences and perspectives on the basis of where they come from and who they identify as.

Members are trusted individuals who offer constructive and impartial advice. They are prepared to listen, analyse and comment on equality and human rights issues in the Police.