

IN THE MATTER OF THE POLICE (CONDUCT) REGULATIONS 2020

IN THE MATTER OF FORMER PC 8399 RYAN LLEWELLYN

Accelerated Misconduct Hearing on 29 April 2026

By

Chief Constable Jeremy Vaughan

Decision on Outcome

Former PC 8399 Ryan Llewellyn resigned as a police officer shortly before this hearing. It follows that he is no longer a serving police officer. Therefore, this Accelerated Misconduct Hearing, held under Part 5 of the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2020, is concerned with a former officer and I direct that the Regulations be amended to the extent required for a former officer.

Former PC Llewellyn has not attended this Accelerated Misconduct Hearing today, but he is represented by his Police Federation Representative, Detective Sergeant David Rich.

On 15 February 2024 Nasima Khanam of the United Kingdom Border Agency was on duty when she intercepted a package addressed to former PC Llewellyn at his home address and upon opening it established that it contained 18 grams of a Class A drug, namely Psilocybin (magic mushrooms).

Former PC Llewellyn was arrested at his home address on 1st March 2024, for "Importation of Controlled Drugs". At the relevant time, former PC Llewellyn was a servicing police officer but was off duty at the time of his arrest.

Former PC Llewellyn was subsequently charged with the criminal offence of the importation of a Class A drug, namely Psilocybin (magic mushrooms) Contrary to section 170(2), (3) and

(4) of and Schedule 1 to the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 and 3(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Former PC Llewellyn appeared before Newport Magistrates' Court on 23 March 2026 and entered a not guilty plea. After a contested hearing, he was found guilty of the offence charged on 25 March 2026.

On 27 March 2026, the Court sentenced former PC Llewellyn for the Offence for which he had been convicted. The sentence imposed on former PC Llewellyn was a Community Order for 12 months, the requirement being that former PC Llewellyn carry out 100 hours of unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay a Surcharge of £114 and Costs of £1,000 to the Crown Prosecution Service. A forfeiture and destruction order was made in relation to the Class A drugs seized. In this respect and for completeness, I refer to the Certificate of Conviction which is contained at pages 19 to 21 of the bundle.

It follows that former PC Llewellyn has been convicted of a serious criminal offence and the allegation which I have to consider is set out in the Notice under Regulation 51 of the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2020 which has been served on former PC Llewellyn.

The Appropriate Authority contends that the conviction is in itself a breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour in relation to:

Standard 9: Discreditable Conduct, namely that: *"Police Officers behave in a manner, which does not discredit the police service or undermine confidence in it, whether on or off duty.*

Police officers report any action taken against them for a criminal offence, any conditions imposed on them by a court or receipt of any penalty notice."

The Appropriate Authority alleges that the conviction amounts to gross misconduct, which is defined in Regulation 2 (1) of the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2020, as amended, as *"a breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour that is so serious as to justify dismissal."*

As former PC Llewellyn resigned shortly before this hearing and is now a former officer, this is amended to the effect that the breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour is so serious that former PC Llewellyn would have been dismissed if the officer had not ceased to be a member of a police force.

Former PC Llewellyn has had limited engagement in these misconduct proceedings. The former officer has not provided a written response to the allegation in accordance with Regulation 54. However, he has resigned as a police officer and in his letter of resignation, he acknowledged his recent criminal conviction and recognises the implications this has for the police service and his continued role as a police officer.

Former PC Llewellyn has not provided a written response, or any response, to the allegation against him except to expressly comment in his resignation letter, that he wishes to: *“state for the record, that [he] maintains his innocence in this matter.”*

I have interrupted this to mean that former PC Llewellyn wishes to contest the allegation against him. In this regard, I note that he has explicitly acknowledged his criminal conviction on which the allegation is based. The Certificate of Conviction is in itself incontrovertible evidence that former PC Llewellyn has been convicted of a serious criminal offence. I also note that he has not sought to appeal his conviction.

On the balance of probabilities, I have no hesitation in finding the allegations to be proved. Former PC Llewellyn has brought discredit on the police service, and his behaviour has undermined the confidence of the public in policing. I am satisfied that his conduct amounts to gross misconduct.

Outcome

Having found gross misconduct, I must impose disciplinary action on the former officer, and I have no hesitation on doing so. The disciplinary action can only be that former PC Llewellyn would have been dismissed if he had not ceased to be a member of a police force.

In reaching my decision, I have fully considered the College of Policing Guidance on Outcomes in Police Misconduct Proceedings which has formed the basis for my conclusion. I have tested the seriousness of the allegations and the purpose of imposing a sanction, which I have to consider in deciding an outcome. I have given due consideration to culpability, harm, any aggravating factors, and any mitigating factors as set out in the Guidance.

In assessing the seriousness of the conduct, I recognise the more culpable or blameworthy the behaviour in question, the more serious the misconduct and the more severe the likely outcome. It is totally unacceptable for police officers, who are responsible for enforcing the law, to break the law themselves. A criminal conviction is always a serious matter. I am also mindful that the former officer held a position of trust and responsibility, and his misconduct is a serious abuse of that trust. All these matters significantly increase culpability. There can be no doubt that former PC Llewellyn's behaviour has an adverse impact on public confidence in policing.

The harm caused by the former officer's actions is reputational harm and affects the police service and public confidence in the service as a whole. A factor of the greatest importance is the impact of the misconduct on the standing and reputation of the profession as a whole. I am satisfied that former PC Llewellyn has caused damage to that reputation.

Aggravating factors are those tending to worsen the circumstances of the case, in relation to either the former officer's culpability or harm caused. I found that there are a number of significant aggravating factors present. The conduct was premeditated, intentional and deliberate. There is an element of personal gain. Psilocybin or "magic mushrooms" is a Class A drug and misuse of drugs is a matter of particular local and national concern for policing and the communities which we serve.

The conduct is a significant deviation from the general law of the land, instructions which includes orders, force policy and national guidance. Former PC Llewellyn's behaviour is reprehensible and totally unacceptable. His behaviour continued after he realised, or should have realised, that it was improper.

In terms of any mitigating factors which lower the level of culpability and harm, in the present instance there is a clear absence of any mitigating factors. However, I acknowledge that former PC Llewellyn has resigned, and it would appear that he has at least taken some responsibility for his actions. I give him some very small credit for that.

I have reminded myself of the threefold purpose of the outcomes in police misconduct proceedings which is to maintain public confidence in policing and the reputation of the police service; to uphold high standards in policing and to deter misconduct; and to protect the public.

Former PC Llewellyn has not put forward any personal mitigation. He has not even apologised for his actions and there is a complete lack of remorse. I recognise that due to the nature and purpose of disciplinary proceedings, the weight attached to any personal mitigation will necessarily be limited, particularly where serious misconduct has been found, as is the case here.

In the circumstances, there is only one possible outcome which I am able to impose, and I have absolutely no hesitation in doing so. Therefore, my decision on Outcome is that I am satisfied that the misconduct is so serious that former PC Llewellyn would have been immediately dismissed had he not resigned. No other outcome is justified or appropriate.

Class A drugs form part of a criminal industry that preys on vulnerable people and provokes the most serious form of violence. Organised criminals need customers to operate effectively. You could not be a user of a Class A drug and disassociate yourself with the terrible levels of harm and violence that surround organised criminality. Former PC Llewellyn knew or ought to have known this. This seriously aggravates his misconduct. He has lined the pockets of those who torment our communities.

There is no room in South Wales Police for this type of behaviour. The Standards of Professional Behaviour apply the moment you walk through the door. This type of behaviour whether on or off duty will not be tolerated in any way. Police officers should be trusted to the ends of the earth. The public rightly expect our officers to uphold the highest professional standards, and former PC Llewellyn has failed to do so.

The vast majority of the Police officers, staff and volunteers, who work for South Wales Police conduct themselves impeccably and work tirelessly to protect the public, those very few who choose to breach the standards expected of them undermine the public's trust in policing.

In accordance with the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2020 the Findings and Outcome from this hearing will be referred to the College of Policing in order for former PC 8399 Ryan Llewellyn to be placed on the Police Barred List.