

Call for Welsh police forces to merge



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THE chief constable of one of Wales's police forces has backed their merger to create one super force.

Scotland's eight forces have just been brought together with the aim of **cutting costs** and such a move could become reality in Wales with the Silk Commission, which was set up to examine how devolution is working in the Principality, being asked to examine whether such a step would work here.

Carmel Napier, chief constable of Gwent Police, said: "I support the principle of a single Welsh police service based on community policing, however, specialist police services should be organised regionally and supported by a single administrative function."

Meanwhile, Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner, Christopher Salmon, has reservations about the idea.

He said: "If you make something centralised, you make them more remote from communities."

A proposal to merge the four Welsh forces is not new after Labour's then-Home Secretary, Charles Clarke, also sounded out the idea in 2006, but it was later abandoned.

Read more: <http://www.thisissouthwales.co.uk/Welsh-police-forces-merge/story-18594975-detail/story.html#ixzz2Ps0X4F1o>

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