



Mick Antoniw MS
Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
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23 July 2020

Dear Mick

Inquiry into Making Justice work in Wales – data on access to justice

I am writing in response to your letter dated 19 June about the committee's inquiry into making justice work in Wales.

The Welsh Government agrees with the Commission on Justice in Wales that it is important to ensure that disaggregated statistical data on justice in Wales is as accessible as possible. The Welsh Government's Chief Statistician and the Chief Statistician for the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) discussed this on several occasions in 2019 and agreed about the need to identify ways of making the data available wherever it was possible, and for it to be in an accessible form for Welsh users.

The MoJ endeavours to provide us, on request, with data relating to Wales but this is not always available to the MoJ in the form we request it and, that even when it is available, it can take some time for requests to be actioned.

MoJ priorities have been affected by an ongoing significant increase in workload, which commenced last summer and, like the Welsh Government, the MoJ has also been impacted by the global coronavirus pandemic. Analytical resource has been diverted to understanding and responding to coronavirus.

Despite the difficulties which we have acknowledged we continue to believe that more needs to be done to provide data to Wales on the basis set out in the Thomas Commission report. That point has been clearly communicated to the MoJ.

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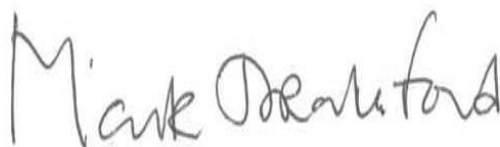
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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

We anticipate discussions about statistical data will resume between the Welsh Government and the MoJ over the coming months, subject to the course of the pandemic in the UK.

An important development this year has been the funding announced by Administrative Data Research UK to the MoJ for the [Data First project](#). This work will provide a platform to link data from across the justice system to help our understanding of people's experiences, including people from Wales, and will also provide greater secure access to data for researchers in Wales.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD