**Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol**

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**Equality and Social Justice Committee**

**Senedd Cymru**
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
SeneddCydraddoldeb@senedd.cymru
senedd.cymru/SeneddCydraddoldeb
0300 200 6565

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**Welsh Parliament**
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN
SeneddEquality@senedd.wales
senedd.wales/SeneddEquality
0300 200 6565

Mike Hedges MS
Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

6 January 2025

Dear Mike,

Re: joint-ministerial scrutiny session on criminal justice

On 23 December you were copied into our correspondence with the Welsh and UK governments proposing a joint-ministerial scrutiny session on criminal justice. We hope that both governments will agree to our proposal to kickstart enhanced dialogue on how to improve a system which appears to be letting down too many people in Wales.

As outlined in the letter, our previous work has focused primarily on issues which are either devolved; or substantially overlap with or impact upon Welsh Government responsibilities. We are fully aware that Prisons and Justice are currently reserved matters.

I would like to ensure that our approach is complementary where possible and explore potential opportunities for collaboration should you wish to do so. Subject to the views of our respective Members, it may be helpful to consider arrangements such as guesting or rapporteur arrangements. Alternatively, we could agree a mechanism for sharing information and provide updates at key stages. Our previous experience of collaborating with other committees has involved different methods at different times and we are therefore not wedded to a single approach.

I would welcome your thoughts on this matter and would be happy to arrange a meeting to discuss further if helpful.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

Welsh Parliament