

Jane Hutt MS

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd  
and Chief Whip, Welsh Government

Julie James MS

Counsel General, Welsh Government

8 January 2025

Dear Jane,

### General scrutiny of criminal justice issues

In addition to our letter dated 20 December proposing a joint ministerial scrutiny session on criminal justice, we would be grateful if you could provide a written update regarding two of our criminal justice-related workstreams: the inquiry into **Women's experiences of the criminal justice system**; and the **inquiry into the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan (ArWAP)**.

We would welcome a general update on progress with regards to the issues covered in the women's experiences report and on recommendations 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, and 18 specifically.

With regards to 'Actions, not words', our report on the ARWAP, we would welcome an update on the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework specified in recommendation 5 and recommendation 10. Poor availability and access to criminal justice data (with researchers often needing to resort to freedom of information requests to obtain Wales-specific data) was a key concern that led us to making the latter recommendation. We would therefore be grateful if you could outline any progress in addressing these concerns in your response.

As part of both updates, we would be grateful if you could include details of the following:

- the current status of the specified recommendations;
- details of the measures and actions taken by the Welsh Government since it published its response to the report;
- any challenges or opportunities encountered; and
- the expected timeline for any remaining steps.

We would welcome a response within the usual timescales and no later than 5 February 2025.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jenny Rathbone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'J'.

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

Senedd Cymru