Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

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Equality and Social Justice Committee

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Jane Hutt MS
Cabinet Secretary, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

Dear Jane,

13 May 2025

Scrutiny sessions on prisons and criminal justice

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank you for your willingness to participate in one of two back-to-back scrutiny sessions involving both Welsh and UK governments on criminal justice which we scheduled for 19 May. Unfortunately, we learned yesterday afternoon that the Prisons Minister, Lord Timpson can no longer make the session due to parliamentary commitments relating to the Sentencing Guidelines Bill. In light of the Minister's withdrawal from the session we have reflected carefully on the changed context. After some reflection, we believe it would be better to postpone both sessions at this stage until a new date can be found.

We recognise you may have had to make time in your schedule to attend next week. Please know that we appreciate this and regret any inconvenience caused. However, we simply want to ensure that our work on this topic reflects the shared and interdependent nature of this policy area and believe that seeing both governments on the same day will ensure that everyone's time is spent more effectively.

Thank you again for your understanding. We hope to rearrange the sessions for a future date, hopefully under more coordinated circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

CC: Lord Timpson, Minister of State for Prisons; Ruth Jones MP, Chair of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee; Mike Hedges MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Peter Fox MS, Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee