

**Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb
a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol**

—
**Equality and Social Justice
Committee**

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl
Ifanc ac Addysg**

—
**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

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Jane Hutt MS CBE
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

4 July 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Taser 10 Briefing from Children's Legal Centre

We wish to draw to your attention the [Children's Legal Centre Wales briefing](#) regarding the use of Tasers on children. In particular how children's rights in Wales could be impacted by the potential authorisation of Taser 10 for use by police forces in Wales and England. Following consideration by our committees on 23rd and 25th of June we agreed to write to you jointly for more information. Rather than duplicate the briefing by repeating its contents here, we would urge you to read the briefing if you have not already done so.

Our current concern is based on the Welsh data about Taser use on children aged 11-17 across the 4 Welsh police forces in the year ending 2024. We have not taken evidence or conducted a detailed inquiry into this topic but we recognise this issue would benefit from greater parliamentary scrutiny at some stage. Nevertheless, we are sufficiently alarmed at the impact on children's rights, including the potential psychological and physical harm to children that these weapons can inflict, that we felt it necessary to signal our concerns immediately.

Fundamentally, we question how sanctioning the use of Taser 10 on children is consistent with the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 and the trauma-informed approach of the Youth Justice Blueprint. Furthermore, the data on disproportional and discriminatory use of Tasers on people from ethnic minorities undermines the ambition to secure an Anti-racist Wales.

In light of these concerns and given the intersection between devolved and reserved policy, we would like to ask the following questions:

1. What is the Welsh Government's position on the use of Tasers on children by police forces in Wales? What representations has the Welsh Government made to UK Ministers and police forces in Wales on their use on children?
2. What involvement has the Welsh Government had in formulating UK Government policy on the use of Tasers on children? How has the Welsh Government ensured that the rights of children and the devolved context are taken into account by the UK Government?
3. How will the Welsh Government ensure that the impact on children is properly assessed by the UK Government?
4. Will the Welsh Government or UK Government conduct and publish a Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) on the policy and commit to doing so for all future changes to police enforcement technology that relate to children in Wales.
5. How will the Welsh Government work with colleagues in the UK Government to improve data transparency and reporting around the use of Tasers and other police enforcement technologies particularly the need for disaggregated data for Wales?

We would be grateful for a response by 21/07/25 and look forward to receiving it. A copy of this letter and your response will also be shared with the Children's Legal Centre Wales.

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice
Committee, Senedd Cymru

Buffy Williams MS

Chair of the Children, Young People and
Education Committee, Senedd Cymru

CC:

Jo Stevens MP, Secretary of State for Wales