

Lord Timpson
Minister of State for Prisons
Ministry of Justice

1 August 2025

Dear Lord Timpson,

Criminal Justice in Wales

Many thanks to you and Ian Barrow for your appearance at the Equality and Social Justice Committee on 14 July. Members of the Committee were most appreciative of your time and the information you were able to share with us.

We will be considering our next steps in terms of scrutiny of the progress being made on improving the effectiveness and value for money of criminal justice in Wales in the autumn. In the meantime, the Committee would be grateful if you could please provide the following additional information:

1. As HMP Berwyn was designed as a rehabilitation-focused prison, what are the main barriers preventing it from delivering on that vision—particularly in terms of education, purposeful activity, and stability—and what steps are being taken to address them?
2. Please can you confirm how many of the 1,300 Probation Officers employed in a recent recruitment drive were recruited into Welsh prisons?
3. Please can you provide data on re-offending by prisoners with home postcodes in Wales – including, where possible, a breakdown of Welsh prisoners serving/having served sentences outside Wales?

I would welcome a response within the usual timescales.

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

CC:

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

Ruth Jones MP, Chair of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee, House of Commons