

Jane Hutt MS

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

Sarah Murphy MS

Minister for Mental Health and Well Being

1 August 2025

Dear Jane and Sarah,

### **Criminal Justice in Wales**

Further to the Equality and Social Justice Committee meeting on 14 July 2025 on Criminal Justice in Wales, I thank the Cabinet Secretary for attending and am requesting clarification on the following:

- 1. whether the mapping of costs related to criminal justice will include a breakdown by service type and geographic area within Wales and how that data might inform future funding decisions or devolution discussions?*
- 2. the timeline for the publication of information relating to the mapping of justice service costs?*
- 3. whether the Welsh Government would hold executive powers in the proposed model in areas like probation and youth justice and how those powers would relate to the UK Government's role?*
- 4. which data sets will be disaggregated - particularly on race, ethnicity, gender, and Welsh prisoners in English prisons, and confirm whether this data will be published publicly or retained as internal management data?*
- 5. clarity on when the data relating to pregnant women will be available?*
- 6. whether there is a timeline or action plan in place for achieving a national minimum standard for speech and language support in youth offending teams, and whether dedicated funding will be made available by the UK or Welsh Government to ensure consistent access across Wales?*
- 7. what specific interventions the Welsh Government is planning—or calling for—to reduce the number of Black and care-experienced children entering the youth justice and probation systems? How will the WG measure the impact of these interventions over time, particularly in terms of reducing disproportionality?*

Minister for Mental Health and Well Being, I am so sorry you were unable to attend the session as I know how committed you are to this area of your portfolio; I do hope you are feeling better now. As you were unable to attend the session, please could you answer the following queries:

- 8. What steps is the Welsh Government taking to negotiate a fair and sustainable funding settlement with the UK Government for prison healthcare, especially in light of rising healthcare demands?*



9. *What is the formula for determining the level of funding allocated to prison healthcare by health boards? What oversight is there, if any, of quality assurance? How does the Welsh Government ensure consistency and adequacy across Wales?*

10. *Will the Welsh Government publish a breakdown of how much each health board allocates annually to prison healthcare?*

I would welcome a response within the usual timescales.

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

CC:

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