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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y
Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH/PO/358/25

Jenny Rathbone MS
Equality and Social Justice Committee

Buffy Williams MS
Children, Young People and Education Committee

17 July 2025

Dear Jenny and Buffy,

Thank you for your letter of 4 July drawing my attention to the Children's Legal Centre Wales briefing regarding the potential authorisation of Taser 10, for use by police forces in England and Wales.

I thank you for taking the time to write to me and below you will find my response to the five questions you posed:

- 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?*

The Welsh Government does not wish to see the use of tasers on children, by police forces in Wales.

Our vision is for an evidence-based, trauma-informed criminal justice system in Wales, to prevent crime happening in the first place. We are committed to the fair and equal provision of devolved services so everyone in the criminal justice system has the support they need to live successful, crime-free lives.

This approach is exemplified by the Youth Justice Blueprint, which we developed jointly with the Ministry of Justice, Policing in Wales, the Youth Justice Board and third-sector partners. It recognises the commitment to the delivery of children's rights in Wales and the whole-system approach takes account of the relevant articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the design of youth justice services for Wales. It sets out the ambition for a rights-based and trauma-informed system, which will support services to deliver positive outcomes for children.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Wales Youth Justice Advisory Panel (WYJAP), jointly convened and co-chaired by the Welsh Government and the Youth Justice Board provides advice and scrutiny to the Welsh Government regarding policy implementation to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people in Wales. A key area of strategic focus for WYJAP is partnership working with policing and the relationship between youth justice and child centred policing.

The use of tasers, the police and justice powers and procedures related to them are matters reserved to the UK Government. The Welsh Government is therefore not able to legislate and prohibit the use of such equipment. Policing, the use of force in custody, and the use of tasers and other such equipment is entirely the responsibility of the UK Government.

Welsh Government works in partnership with Policing in Wales and as such, I asked for their thoughts regarding the use of taser 10, and taser use on children in Wales.

Policing in Wales have provided the below information:

- At present, the taser 10 approach has not yet been approved or rolled out by Policing in Wales.
- The use of tasers is monitored nationally and is independently scrutinised on a quarterly basis which looks at stop search and use of force (and will include use of taser on children and young people).
- The use of taser incidents involving children (aged 11-17) is generally rare.

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?

As stated above, policing is reserved to the UK Government, therefore the Welsh Government have not been involved in formulating UK Government policy on the use of tasers on children.

3. How will the Welsh Government ensure that the impact on children is properly assessed by the UK Government?

I am aware that the Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP, Minister of State for Policing and Crime Prevention, received a written question in April 2025, querying whether a Child Rights Impact Assessment would be conducted before the potential authorisation of Taser 10 for use by police forces in England and Wales.

Dame Diana's response assured that the UK Government decisions on whether to approve Taser for police use were informed by robust, independent technical and medical testing and assessments alongside an equality impact assessment which sets out any implications for those with protected characteristics, including age.

I will be writing to Dame Diana, to express my concerns regarding the use of tasers on children. I will also seek assurances regarding the compatibility of this policy position with the UN Convention on Rights of a Child, coupled with requesting further information and assurances regarding how the UK Government intend to assess the impact on children.

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.*

As stated above, policing is reserved to the UK Government, and it would therefore be a decision for the UK Government to make. I will raise this issue with Dame Diana within my letter and can share the response with the Committee.

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?*

It is important that Welsh Government receives the justice data it needs to carry out effective policy and delivery work in the areas of the justice system we have responsibility for, and to continue our policy development work on full devolution (including policing) and the future of the justice system in Wales.

Likewise, as highlighted in the Thomas Commission it is crucial to ensure there is sufficient accessible information in the public domain about how the justice system is working in Wales. People should be able to easily understand how the justice system is working where they live.

I hope this information is useful. We will continue to engage with the UK Government on their reserved responsibilities relating to this issue and would be happy to share any updates or assurances we may receive, in due course.

Yours sincerely



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