

Julie James AS/MS  
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Cyflawni  
Counsel General and Minister for Delivery



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair of the Legislation, Justice  
and Constitution Committee

[SeneddLJC@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddLJC@senedd.wales)

27 January 2026

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 14 January 2026, requesting an update on the opening of the Residential Women's Centre, in Swansea.

Decisions on the Centre are for the UK Government. However, as you may be aware, building and planning permission are confirmed, and the Centre remains a key priority objective for Welsh Government. It will improve the lives of women in Wales, providing therapeutic and rehabilitative services as part of a trauma-informed approach.

We understand the importance of women maintaining contact with their families, particularly since many currently reside in facilities across the border in England. The Centre will allow women to stay closer to home and maintain crucial family ties, especially with their children. By providing support closer to home, the Centre will also help address the underlying issues that contribute to offending behaviour, such as mental health issues, substance misuse or domestic violence.

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip and I regularly engage with UK Government Justice Ministers and key partners who are leading on this important programme of work.

We appreciate the interest of the Committee in this work. It is noteworthy to mention that the Cabinet Secretary answered an Oral Question from Altaf Hussain MS on 14 January 2026, regarding the opening of the Centre. In her response, the Cabinet Secretary confirmed she will meet soon with Lord Timpson, Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending, to help fully understand the latest position.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Cwnsler.Cyffredinol@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Cwnsler.Cyffredinol@llyw.cymru)  
[correspondence.Counsel.General@gov.wales](mailto:correspondence.Counsel.General@gov.wales)

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.

In the meantime, Welsh Government officials continue to work closely with the UK Government to ensure the Centre remains a priority and is progressed as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie James AS/MS**

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