

Julie James MS
Counsel General and Minister for Delivery
Welsh Government

14 January 2026

Dear Julie,

Justice – Swansea Residential Women’s Centre

The Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee recently considered your letter of 17 December 2025, which summarised the discussions of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Justice, which took place on 11 December 2025.

We were interested to note that you had raised the issue of progress with the Women’s Residential Centre in Swansea and more generally concerns about women within the criminal justice system in Wales. We note that progress on the centre has been slow, with the previous UK Government noting an intention to open the centre by 2024.

We note that the UK Government’s Prisons Minister, Lord Timpson, was asked for an update on progress by the House of Commons’ Welsh Affairs Committee at their meeting on 17 December 2025. Lord Timpson stated:

“We are getting to the final stages of our allocations process, so in January we hope to be in a position where we can make a decision on Swansea”.

The Committee would be grateful if you would write to the Committee by the end of January with an update on the position, including when you now expect the centre to open.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Hedges

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Chair

