

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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11 August 2023

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your letter of 18 July following the Senedd's Plenary debate on speech and language therapists within youth justice, held 28 June 2023. Speech Language and Communication provision, including in the justice system, is the responsibility of the Minister for Health and Social Services but I am responding on behalf of Welsh Ministers given this issue interfaces with my portfolio and that of the Minister for Education and Welsh Language.

As justice, including youth justice is not currently devolved, it would not be appropriate for me to write to youth justice management boards in local authorities in Wales about the use of the youth justice services (YJS) grant funding which they receive from the Ministry of Justice.

However, as I said in the debate, Welsh Government will convene a summit in the autumn with all key stakeholders including YJS, Youth Justice Board, the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and officials from the relevant Welsh Government. The intention is to invite Neath Port Talbot YJS and other stakeholders to present on their approach to SLT provision, to showcase/share best practice and explore regional approaches. The outcomes of this summit will help formulate future approaches for the provision of SLT in youth justice services.

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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.

I note your request for the Welsh Government to look at alternative ways of increasing provision and training places for Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs). We are currently facing the challenges of an unprecedented financial position and all decisions must now be considered in this context. This letter is copied to the Minister for Health and Social Services to ensure she is also able to note the request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter 'J'.

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