

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros  
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate  
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDCC/0185/25

Mike Hedges AS/MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

23 April 2025

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 March. We appreciate the Committee's continued engagement and scrutiny on justice matters.

Tangible delivery for the people of Wales is being prioritised across government. As such, our default position is to not publish strategies, frameworks, plans and annual report type documents unless it is absolutely necessary.

Publishing a further progress report on Delivering Justice for Wales would require a significant amount of civil service resource to produce in addition to the information already provided to the Senedd and otherwise made public by various means about the areas of work which were covered within Delivering Justice for Wales. For example, we note recent Written Statements on the [Children \(Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment\) \(Wales\) Act 2020 Post-implementation Review](#) and on the [Single Advice Fund](#). A statement on the Youth Justice and Women's Justice Blueprints is also expected shortly.

This is not to say all annual reports are being suspended; as the Committee will have seen, the Welsh Government also continues to produce annual reports detailing progress on certain key programmes of work such as the [Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales Pilot](#) and [Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence](#) (both of which are also referenced within Delivering Justice for Wales).

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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.

Transparency is of course important, but the above examples demonstrate that it can be provided through different means. Bringing related activities together as in Delivering Justice for Wales and its progress reports can have value, but it does not come at zero cost; all time spent on such activity is time that could be spent on directly pursuing the delivery of the Welsh Government's priorities and meeting its other responsibilities. This is a balancing act which all parts of Welsh Government have to consider, but is particularly challenging where Welsh Government's complement of officials is necessarily small. In this instance, we have made the difficult decision to prioritise making tangible progress on important objectives such as the devolution of justice this Senedd term.

We understand that this may be disappointing but would like to reiterate our happiness to work with the Committee to ensure this programme of work receives the appropriate level of scrutiny. In the meantime we will continue to provide updates through Written and Oral Statement at key points. We hope that as such updates are provided you will see that these updates, alongside our appearing before the Committee to give evidence is a proportionate means of satisfying the proper need for transparency.

Yours sincerely,



**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

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