

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P-JJ/2557/19 (addendum)

John Griffiths AC/AM
Chair
Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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18 September 2019

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 26 July about the responses to the Committee's report on Voting Rights for Prisoners.

I should like to thank the Committee for its detailed examination of the issues. The report and the reasoning behind its recommendations have helped inform our policy conclusions.

The Welsh Government is committed to the principle of prisoner voting for all devolved Welsh elections. My response to the Committee made clear that the Welsh Government would work to introduce legislation in this Assembly to enable prisoners and young people in custody from Wales serving a custodial sentence of less than four years to vote in local government elections.

As highlighted in the Committee's report, there are significant legal and administrative issues to tackle, not least with the UK Government and its agencies. We do not believe it will be possible to resolve these issues to include provision in the current Senedd and Elections (Wales) Bill. The Welsh Government will seek an appropriate legislative vehicle to introduce provision at the earliest opportunity to enable prisoners and young people in custody from Wales to vote in Assembly elections on the same terms as will apply for local government elections.

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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 am copying this letter to the Llywydd, to the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee and to the Counsel General and Brexit Minister.

Yours sincerely

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

Julie James AC/AM

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