

# Concise Minutes – Equality and Social Justice Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 (Senedd)

Meeting date: Monday, 14 July 2025

Meeting time: 13.00 – 17.00

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/15520>

## Hybrid

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### Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jenny Rathbone MS (Chair) Mick Antoniw MS Jane Dodds MS Altaf Hussain MS Julie Morgan MS Adam Price MS
Witnesses:	Jane Hutt MS, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip Mike Connolly, Deputy Director, Community Safety Division, Welsh Government Alex Slade, Director of Primary Care, Mental Health & Early Years, Welsh Government Lord Timpson, Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending, Ministry of Justice Ian Barrow, Executive Director for HMPPS Wales
Committee Staff:	Rhys Morgan (Clerk) Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk)



	Angharad Roche (Deputy Clerk) Sarah Hatherley (Researcher)
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## **1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

Apologies were received from Sioned Williams. Adam Price attended as a substitute for Plaid Cymru,

Pursuant to Standing Order 17.49 Ruth Jones, the Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee attended the meeting.

## **2 The criminal justice system in Wales: Ministerial scrutiny session – session one**

Members heard evidence from:

Jane Hutt MS Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

Mike Connolly, Deputy Director, Community Safety Division, Welsh Government

Alex Slade, Director of Primary Care, Mental Health & Early Years, Welsh Government

Sarah Murphy MS, Minister for Health and Well Being, sent apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

## **3 The criminal justice system in Wales: Ministerial scrutiny session – session two**

Members heard evidence from:

Lord Timpson, Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending,  
Ministry of Justice

Ian Barrow, Executive Director for HMPPS Wales

#### **4 Papers to note**

Members noted the papers.

**4.1 Correspondence from the Llywydd to the Chair regarding the Chair's Forum's consultation on 'Reviewing Committee Effectiveness in the Sixth Senedd'**

**4.2 Correspondence from the Legislation, Justice and the Constitution Committee to the Minister for Mental Health and Well Being regarding HMP Parc Prison**

**4.3 Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and the Constitution Committee regarding the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement**

**4.4 Correspondence to the Chair from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip regarding the EU Settlement Scheme in Wales**

**5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) to exclude the public for items 6,8 & 9 of today's meeting and for the entirety of the Committee meeting on 21 July 2025**

Members agreed the motion.

**6 The criminal justice system in Wales: Ministerial scrutiny session – consideration of evidence**

Members considered the evidence.

## **7 Pre-appointment hearing for the National Adviser for Violence Against Women, Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence**

Members held a pre-appointment hearing with the Welsh Government's preferred candidate for the role of National Adviser for Violence Against Women, Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

## **8 Pre-appointment hearing for the National Adviser for Violence Against Women, Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – consideration of draft report**

Members discussed the Pre-appointment hearing for the National Adviser for Violence Against Women, Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and agreed their recommendation to the Welsh Government.

## **9 Social cohesion: initial consideration of draft report**

Members considered an initial draft report.