

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister of Wales

Jeremy Miles MS
Counsel General

22 October 2020

Dear Both

Making Justice work in Wales

Thank you for attending our meeting on **12 October 2020** to discuss matters relevant to our inquiry into **Making Justice work in Wales**.

We look forward to receiving the further information you agreed to share with us at paragraphs **11** and **94** of the transcript: namely, your Work Programme document that outlines the five ongoing work streams in place to implement the Thomas Commission recommendations and confirmation of the available information and data regarding the performance of the Welsh courts in comparison with the courts in England, including the Welsh Government's assessment of what it shows.

We also welcome your intention to share a dashboard of data on justice in Wales more widely in due course (paragraphs **73 and 74** of the transcript) and we would be grateful if we could be kept updated with developments.

We did not cover certain issues during the session and would therefore welcome your response to the following questions:

1. What representations has the Welsh Government made to the UK Government about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the delivery of justice in Wales?
2. How will the Welsh Government keep the Senedd informed of cooperation with the UK Government on managing the recovery of the justice system from the pandemic?



Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

 SeneddDCC@senedd.cymru

 0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

 SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

 0300 200 6565

3. In light of the comments made by justice stakeholders in the Wales Governance Centre report, Justice at the Jagged Edge in Wales, that 'you can't scrutinise what you don't know is happening', how will the Welsh Government ensure the public and the Senedd are aware of the Welsh Government's work in the justice space?
4. How will the Welsh Government keep the Senedd informed of its engagement with UK Government Ministers, departments and non-devolved justice bodies on improving the delivery of justice in Wales?
5. What discussions has the Welsh Government had with the UK Government on improving transparency on overall spending on the justice system in Wales?
6. How will the Welsh Government report on its own spending on justice to enable the Senedd to consider this expenditure as part of budget scrutiny?
7. How does the Welsh Government respond to the view of the President of Welsh Tribunals that the Welsh Tribunals Unit should have a similar status to HMCTS and that this should not wait for the work of the Law Commission to be completed?
8. How does the Welsh Tribunals Unit monitor the accessibility of the Welsh Tribunals, including equalities, the use of the Welsh language and the experience of litigants in person?
9. How are the Welsh Tribunals Unit monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the performance and accessibility of the Welsh Tribunals? Will data be published on the use of remote hearings?
10. What is the Welsh Government doing to prepare the Welsh Tribunals for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic?

I would be grateful to receive the further information, and your response to these additional questions, at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely



Mick Antoniw AM
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

