



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

18 January 2022

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your letter of 21 December 2021, regarding the creation of a women's residential centre in South Wales.

The proposed Residential Women's Centre (RWC) remains a key element of the Female Offender Blueprint and the Welsh Government continues to work closely with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) on this important programme of work.

The strong partnership approach between Welsh Government, MoJ, HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and Police & Crime Commissioners has and continues to be pivotal to the ongoing implementation of the Blueprint and the development of the RWC.

MOJ have been working closely with Welsh Government, Local Authorities and a wide range of local partners to identify a suitable site in South Wales which will provide a therapeutic and rehabilitative service for vulnerable women in the local area. A site search has been underway over the last few months and feasibility assessments have been carried out on sites potentially suitable for the development of a residential women's centre. This work is ongoing and we anticipate that more information on timescales should be available once this assessment work is complete.

My officials continue to attend key governance meetings with HMPPS and relevant partners, including representation at the dedicated Project Board for the RWC in Wales. Since the announcement on the RWC being sited in Wales in May 2020, I have regularly engaged with UK Justice Ministers, and I am due to meet with Victoria Atkins, Minister for Prisons and Probation at the end of this month.

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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.

As outlined in my written statement of the 8 November 2021, which provided an update on the Blueprints and Justice related matters, I will keep members informed of progress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'H'.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice