

**Health and Social Care
Committee**

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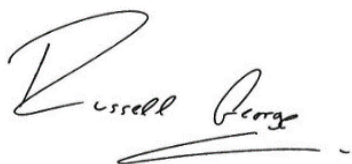
Dear Eluned, Julie and Lynne

Follow up on Fifth Senedd Health, Social Care and Sport Committee recommendations: Provision of health and social care in the adult prison estate

In March 2021, the Fifth Senedd Health, Social Care and Sport Committee published the report of its inquiry into the provision of health and social care in the adult prison estate. At our meeting on 4 May 2022, the current Health and Social Care Committee agreed to follow up on key recommendations made by our predecessor Committee.

We would be grateful if you could respond to the issues raised in the annex by **1 September 2022**.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

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

Annex: Recommendations made by the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee of the Fifth Senedd as part of its inquiry into the provision of health and social care in the adult prison estate in Wales

Background

The HSCS Committee published its report '[Provision of health and social care in the adult prison estate in Wales](#)' in March 2021. The Committee made 27 recommendations, all of which were [accepted by Welsh Government](#), 19 in full, and 8 in principle.

We would welcome an update on the progress made in implementing the Committee's recommendations, as set out below. We would be grateful to receive a response by **1 September 2022**.

Prison Health and Social Care Oversight Group

In its response to many of the HSCS Committee's recommendations, the Welsh Government said it was setting up a Prison Health and Social Care Oversight Group to oversee work and improve transparency in relation to prison health and social care in Wales. In response to **recommendation 2**, the Welsh Government gave a commitment to publishing the Group's agendas and minutes on an ongoing basis, stating that the details would be available on its website by the end of October 2021. To date, we have been unable to find this information on the Welsh Government's website.

1. Could you provide a link to the relevant page on the Welsh Government's website where details of the work of the Prison Health and Social Care Oversight Group can be found, including agendas and minutes of its meetings, and information about its workstreams.
2. If this information isn't already available on the website, please provide an update on how the Welsh Government is working through and with the PHSCOG to implement **recommendations 6, 7, 9, 17, 18, 19, 22, 25, and 27** of the HSCS Committee report.

HMP Parc

The HSCS Committee's report also raised specific concerns about arrangements at the privately-run prison, HMP Parc. The 25-year contract for HMP Parc is due to expire in December 2022, and **recommendations 3 and 16** of the Committee's report related to HMP Parc, including the consistency of inspection arrangements with those in place for public sector prisons, and the inclusion in the service specification for health and social care services of screening and early diagnosis for dementia and arrangements to ensure that people who are diagnosed with dementia receive the care and support they need. Both recommendations were accepted by the Welsh Government.

3. Please provide an update on the implementation of **recommendations 3 and 16**. The update should include information about actions that have been taken, any planned

actions, and, where appropriate, details of associated resourcing, planned timescales, and how the impact and outcomes of actions and spend have been (or will be) evaluated and measured.

4. Please also provide an update on the work of the Parc Contract Expiry Board, including whether you have any concerns about whether suitable arrangements will be in place by the time the current contract expires in December 2022.

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

Recommendations 4 and 5, accepted in principle by the Welsh Government, called for the Welsh Government to:

- Use the first suitable legislative vehicle to bring forward amendments to the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019 to include the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman in the list of bodies with whom the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales can cooperate in an investigation.
- Make representations to the UK Government to extend the role of the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman to enable them to question professional and clinical judgement when exercising their function of investigating complaints about health services in privately-run prisons in Wales.

You committed to discussing these matters further with HMPPS, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

5. Please provide an update on your discussions in respect of **recommendations 4 and 5**.

Use of ICT systems to support information sharing

Recommendation 7, which was accepted in principle, asked for details about how Welsh Government would work with partners to promote better communication between justice, health and social care services on prisoners' release dates and release plans, including what roles the PHSCOG and Digital Health and Care Wales might play in this work. In the response, you said that the Welsh Government would work with Digital Health and Care Wales to "explore options for the use of IT systems to support better improved information sharing in this respect".

6. Could you provide an update on the implementation of **recommendation 7**, including what work has been done to explore options for the use of ICT systems to improve information sharing.

Recommendation 10, which was accepted by the Welsh Government, called for clarity about how progress on the priority in the Partnership agreement in respect of mental health will be monitored, including how the contribution of the new national standards will be assessed and whether the 'national standard' approach offers any learning for the approach to the provision of other health or social care within the secure estate in Wales. In your response, you indicated that the intention was to implement the new standards over a period of 12 months, beginning in 2022. You said that, where appropriate, the same indicators would be used to monitor access to services and mental health outcomes in prisons as those being developed for use in the mental health core dataset.

7. Please provide an update on **recommendation 10**, including any implications arising as a result of the delays in the development and implementation of the mental health core dataset.

Secure in-patient provision

Recommendation 11, accepted by the Welsh Government, asked for information about the secure in-patient strategy developed under the revised Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan, including any additional secure bed capacity that would be delivered as a result and how the impact on waiting times would be monitored.

In your response to the recommendation, you indicated that an audit of current secure in-patient provision would be completed by October 2021, including recommendations regarding mental in-patient secure services for adults, children and young people. You also committed to developing a secure in-patient strategy for Wales.

8. What plans do you have to publish the audit of current secure in-patient provision? If the audit is not going to be published, will you share a copy in confidence with us?
9. Please provide an update on the secure in-patient strategy for Wales, including when it will be published.

Substance misuse

Recommendations 12 and 13 related to substance misuse. **Recommendation 12** asked for clarity on the anticipated timescales for the development of the standardised clinical pathway for the management of substance misuse in prisons and the approach to engagement with stakeholders. This recommendation was accepted. In your response, you explained that the aim was for a final draft of the "Treatment of Offenders" Substance Misuse Treatment Framework to be submitted for Ministerial approach by December 2021.

Recommendation 13 asked for an update on the Substance Misuse/Mental Health Deep Dive group's priorities and work plan. This recommendation was accepted in principle. In your response you explained that the Substance Misuse/Mental Health Deep Dive group was updating its work plan, and committed to providing an update, including proposed monitoring arrangements, by March 2022.

10. Could you provide an update on the "Treatment of Offenders" Substance Misuse Treatment Framework, including whether it has been approved by Ministers and when it will be published.
11. Could you provide an update on the work of the Substance Misuse/Mental Health Deep Dive group, including its priorities and work plan, and how its progress in removing barriers faced by prisoners and ex-offenders with co-occurring substance misuse and mental health issues who are seeking to access support in prison or post-release will be monitored.

Funding for health care provision

Recommendation 22 called on the Welsh Government to work with relevant partners through the PHSCOG to collate, review and publish information about the costs of health care provision across prisons in Wales. The recommendation was accepted. In the response, you explained that information had originally been requested from health boards in early 2020, but that this work had been delayed as a result of the pandemic. You added that you would request an update from the relevant health boards by the end of November 2021.

12. Please provide an update on when you expect to be in a position to publish information about the costs of health care provision across prisons in Wales, and how this information will be used to facilitate benchmarking and the sharing of best practice.

National performance indicators

Recommendation 24 called for clarity on the timescales within which work would restart on the development of a set of national performance indicators, when the indicators would be in place, and how and when performance against the indicators would be reported and published. The recommendation was accepted, and in your response you indicated that a draft set of indicators would be developed over the next twelve months, with performance to be reported and published every 12 months thereafter.

13. Could you tell us whether the draft indicators have now been developed, when the indicators will be published, and when the first annual report is expected to be published.

In responding to the HSCS Committee report, the Welsh Government agreed to write to the current Committee with updates on **recommendations 11, 14, 20 and 23, 24**.

14. We would be grateful if you could provide updates on those recommendations, including information about actions that have been taken, any planned actions, and, where appropriate, details of associated resourcing, planned timescales, and how the impact and outcomes of actions and spend have been (or will be) evaluated and measured.
15. Please also provide an update on progress in implementing any recommendations in the report not covered elsewhere in this request (**recommendations 8, 15, 21 and 26**).