

Jeremy Miles MS  
Minister for Education

13 December 2022

Dear Jeremy

**Inquiry on the experiences of young people with speech, language and communication needs in the criminal justice system**

On Monday 5 December we held a spotlight inquiry on the experiences of young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) in the criminal justice system.

We heard how school exclusions are detrimental to a child with SLCN, particularly as it removes them from a potential support network. Please could you confirm, out of the number of children excluded from school in Wales, how many have been identified as having SLCN?

I would be grateful if you could outline any discussions currently taking place to identify alternative options for exclusion, in order to deliver a trauma-informed, pupil centred approach, particularly for those with SLCN where school attendance can offer access to additional support networks. As the First Minister said in the Scrutiny of the FM Committee on 9 December, we need to spread the good practice going on in many schools.

Yours sincerely



**Jenny Rathbone MS**  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee