

Jane Hutt MS
Minister for Social Justice

December 21st 2022

Dear Jane

Racial disproportionality within the Welsh criminal justice system

The Committee noted correspondence from Dr Robert Jones of the Wales Governance Centre on 14 November 2022. The letter was initially written to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee; however it was then passed to us, given the overlap with our remit.

You will be aware that the Equality and Social Justice Committee has recently undertaken two spotlight inquiries on the criminal justice system, where we looked at its impact on women and on young people with speech, language and communication needs.

Whilst the forward programme of the Committee is already scheduled for the coming months thus preventing us from undertaking a full inquiry into racial disproportionality within the Welsh criminal justice system at the moment, some of the issues highlighted merit further attention.

While criminal justice is reserved to the UK Government, the Welsh Government has a clear responsibility for promoting equality and tackling all forms of discrimination in Wales. I would be grateful if you could provide a response to the following questions:

What work, if any, is the Welsh Government undertaking to tackle racial disproportionality within the Welsh criminal justice system?

Has the Welsh Government raised issues of racial disproportionality with counterparts in the UK Government? If so, please provide a breakdown (at both ministerial and official level)?

What role will the Racial Disparities Unit play in improving the Welsh Government's data-gathering and monitoring in this area?

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Jenny Rathbone" in a cursive, flowing script.

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament