

Lynne Neagle MS
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

December 21st 2022

Dear Lynne

Inquiry on women's experiences of the criminal justice system

The Equality and Social Justice Committee has been carrying out an inquiry into the experiences of women in the criminal justice system. Our last evidence session on the inquiry was with the Minister for Social Justice on Monday 12 December 2022.

Women entering the criminal justice system often have a background involving very complex issues, including substance misuse. The benefits of residential detoxification is well-known, assuming the individual is serving a long enough sentence. Please could you set out the level of support for women coming into criminal justice system, whose main presenting factor is their drug addiction, and which organisation provides this service.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee