



Eich cyf/Your ref: CG/PO/340/2023
Ein cyf/Our ref CG/PO/340/2023

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

11th October 2023

Dear Huw

Further to the Committee session on 10 July 2023, where we discussed work on improving the availability of disaggregated data on the criminal justice system in Wales, I am writing to the Committee with a fuller update on work being driven forward by Welsh Government in this area.

Justice Data Dashboards published by Welsh Government

Whilst existing justice data for Wales can be found in various published statistical releases, it is often split across open data tables and geographical tools. To realise more value from existing published data on the justice system in Wales, analysts from the Welsh Government Knowledge and Analytical Services (KAS) directorate are developing interactive Power BI dashboards to bring together and disseminate Welsh justice data.

The first of these, focused on Youth Justice, was [published](#) on Thursday 31 August. The dashboard brings together Wales-specific data from across the accompanying tables of [Youth Justice annual statistics, published by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales](#).

There are four main topic areas included in the dashboard, as outlined below. “Children” in this dashboard refers to people aged 10 to 17.

- Children who offend – the number and characteristics of children receiving cautions or sentences in Wales
- Proven Offences – the number and nature of proven offences committed by children in Wales.
- Outcomes – the number of cautions or sentences given to children in Wales.
- Welsh Youth Justice Performance Indicators – a set of performance indicators specific to the Youth Justice system in Wales, including accommodation, education, training and employment (ETE), substance misuse and mental health.

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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.

The source data for the Youth Justice dashboard is published annually, and it is our intention to update in a timely manner. We are also considering other sources of data relating to Youth Justice to include in future updates.

Analysts are currently developing a further suite of dashboards for publication, which include topics such as courts, prisons, crime occurrences, legal aid and workforce statistics with the aim of making these dashboards publicly available during 2023-24. Drafts of some of these have previously been shared with the Committee.

Work to improve our understanding of the Wales justice data landscape and current gaps

Welsh Government officials have continued work to identify crime and justice data requirements in Wales. The Knowledge and Analytical Services directorate have undertaken work to map the existing criminal justice data published on government websites, to identify where disaggregated data is available for Wales and the specific areas of data where Welsh specific data is missing.

For the first time, this work has given us a comprehensive view of the Welsh criminal justice data landscape, allowing us to clarify our understanding of what is available and where there are gaps which could be addressed. This includes mapping out the available data on crime, prisons and probation, youth justice and the criminal justice workforce.

This mapping exercise, including the current gaps we think could be addressed, has been shared with the Ministry of Justice who have agreed to consider it and provide a response on what is feasible in the short and longer term. Given the scale of the work, the MoJ have asked for our view on the most important areas to address and I wrote to Lord Bellamy on 14 September to highlight the following priorities:

- Areas where MoJ has provided data in response to FoI requests, but data is not routinely published.
- Improved data on race and ethnicity in line with the Criminal Justice Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan
- Data relating to the Women's Justice Blueprint and Youth Justice Blueprint
- Improving the availability and accessibility of existing published Wales-specific data, for instance through dashboards similar to the ones now being published by Welsh Government.

MoJ are continuing to consider this work. If it leads to improvements, our intention would be to expand the mapping work to cover other areas of the broader justice system such as courts, tribunals and legal aid.

Better Outcomes through Linked Data (BOLD)

The BOLD programme is a three-year, cross-Government (Welsh and UK Government) pilot programme, created to demonstrate how individuals with complex needs may be better supported by the Government through linking and improving data in a safe, secure and ethical way. To ensure that BOLD delivers for the individuals with complex needs that it aims to serve, four projects have been identified that could deliver the greatest impact with the highest probability of success. The four key vulnerability projects chosen are: Substance Misuse, Homelessness, Reducing Reoffending and Victim Pathways.

As part of this programme Wales received circa £500k of funding for a data linking project investigating substance misuse services and pathways in Wales. The Welsh Substance Misuse pilot is a joint project across Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and the SAIL databank.

The Welsh pilot has 4 themes for analysis:

- Prevention of escalation of Substance Misuse
- Reducing Reoffending
- Intergenerational Substance Misuse
- Substance Misuse Treatment Effectiveness.

The Welsh Substance Misuse pilot is currently undertaking analysis across all four themes, with publications due by March 2024.

Race Disparity Evidence Unit (RDEU)

We have established a Race Disparity Evidence Unit (RDEU), as set out in our Programme for Government.

The Unit's mission is to improve the availability, quality, granularity and accessibility of evidence about individuals with protected and associated characteristics. This will enable decision makers to develop better informed policies that can be monitored and evaluated for their impact. In turn, this will drive us towards better outcomes for people with protected and associated characteristics and contribute to the national well-being goal of a more equal Wales.

The RDEU has been working with different policy areas on ethnicity classifications, data collection and terminology so there is clarity and consistency across the board as well as conducting several mapping exercises to facilitate this and undertaking an extensive programme of stakeholder engagement.

The RDEU has developed a framework for measuring the overall impact of the Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales Action Plan and is assessing the feasibility of using this framework.

The Anti-racist Wales Action Plan is also supported by an External Accountability Group populated by experts with lived experience. A research sub-group of the External Accountability Group has been established and had its first meeting in September. This group will support the RDEU with shaping the development of measurement indicators and how to incorporate lived experience research. This includes contributing to research and evaluation in eight different areas (Crime & Justice, Education, Environment, Childcare & Play, Health, Sanctuary, Refugee & Asylum, Welsh Government HR, and Social Care).

Working with different policy and government areas will ensure consistency of data classifications and impact measurements of the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan.

This remains an important area of priority for the Welsh Government, and we will continue to work with the UK Government and with expert stakeholders in Wales to maximise progress.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mick Antoniw AS/MS

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution