



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

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23 January 2024

Dear Huw

Thank you for your letters of 10 October 2023 and 17 January 2024 requesting detail on our proposed spending set out in the Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2024-25 on justice activities and the accessibility of Welsh law. I am grateful for your understanding with regard to the timing of this response.

### **Breakdown of planned spending across justice-related actions**

A breakdown of planned spending across justice-related actions within the 2024-25 Draft Budget can be found in the annexed table, alongside a narrative description of any year-on-year changes identified. This includes key activity within the Delivering Justice for Wales work programme and programmes delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, such as the Women's Justice and Youth Justice Blueprints.

#### *Improving the level of information provided*

In answering this question and several of the Committee's subsequent questions, it is important to reflect on the systemic issues it raises. The questions raised by the Committee are fair ones and we recognise the public interest in there being answers available to them. We are grateful to the Committee for the attempts it has made, notwithstanding its significant other workload, to provide cross-cutting scrutiny of justice matters, and as the Committee is aware we have undertaken significant work within Welsh Government to give greater weight and prominence to justice considerations, for example through the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Justice.

We recognise the Committee's point that it is useful to the Welsh Government to be able to understand justice-related expenditure. We continue to explore whether there are ways in which we can improve the level of information we can provide about justice expenditure across government. We will, of course, publish an update on the Delivering Justice for

Wales work programme which will provide an update on activity and outcomes as a result of Welsh Government investment in areas that have an impact on the justice system.

However, there remain significant structural limitations on the extent to which the Welsh Government can consider every issue through a “justice prism”, in the absence of a Minister for Justice and a dedicated justice Main Expenditure Group (MEG). This in turn has been considered difficult to justify in the absence of an increase in the number of ministers, and with the current extent of direct “justice functions” held by Welsh Government, although it is of course hoped that both of these things will change in the relatively near future. Increased civil service capacity on justice would also be needed to support those changes, which is of course part of why any devolution of justice functions must be properly funded.

However, as things stand (and as I have indicated in my previous appearances before the Committee) it is not possible to provide comprehensive granular level information about justice expenditure as it remains the case that justice-related activity cuts across portfolios and is allocated from within a number of BELs. In some areas, where a BEL covers a range of different activities, the allocation of a draft settlement will not mean that final decisions have been taken as to how the funds within that BEL would then be prioritised, and further work will be needed to assess the extent to which they will be allocated to justice related expenditure.

### **What impact have price increases had on proposals for justice-related spending for the 2024-25 budget and how will these be managed**

The specific question about price rises is illustrative of the point made in the section above. The impact of price rises will have been considered to the extent relevant within the context of each individual MEG and indeed within individual Budget Expenditure Lines (BELs). It has not, however, been considered cumulatively in specific relation to expenditure on justice related activity, and to seek to do so would in our judgement be disproportionately resource intensive when set against the value it would offer.

In making that judgement we note the issue that has been raised in previous years’ financial scrutiny, that in some areas, where a BEL covers a range of different activities, the allocation of a draft settlement will not mean that final decisions have been taken as to how the funds within that BEL would then be prioritised, and further work will be needed to assess the extent to which they will be allocated to justice related expenditure. This further complicates any assessment that could be made of the impact of price rises.

That said, we have no reason to believe that the impact of price rises on justice expenditure will be significantly different from the impact of price rises on other areas of Welsh Government expenditure. Our settlement for 2024-25 is worth up to £1.3bn less in real terms than expected at the time of the 2021 Spending Review. That is incredibly difficult. In particular, a large proportion of justice related expenditure is on staff costs, including not just civil servants but the devolved judiciary, PCSOs and others. Staff costs have of course increased in cash terms more than initially forecast, and this is itself a response to increased prices and the impact on the cost of living.

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In working to mitigate these pressures, we have been guided by the need to protect frontline public services as far as possible, and to target support towards those at greatest need. We have made difficult choices about where to prioritise and where to deprioritise funding.

One of the factors that we have taken into account is the extent to which planned funding was due to subsidise reserved areas rather than being focused on the constitutional or statutory responsibilities of Welsh Government – which will of course have impacted on some areas of justice related expenditure, as discussed below.

### **What are the practical implications of the budgetary pressures on the Delivering Justice for Wales programme; is delivery of the programme being scaled back and are outcomes and objectives being reassessed in the current financial context?**

As noted above, one of the factors that we have taken into account is the extent to which planned funding was due to subsidise reserved areas. For example, we have reduced Welsh Government funding to the four Welsh police forces and British Transport Police for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), down from £21.459 million in 2023-24 to £15.488 million in 2024-25.

We are still providing over £15m of funding for PCSOs despite this area being reserved to the UK Government. This money is provided over and above funding for police forces from the UK Government, providing additional investment in Welsh communities which is not available to forces in England.

We have engaged with policing colleagues across the budget process, as part of our longstanding approach to partnership working in Wales. Policing colleagues are now considering the impact of the budget and Welsh Government officials will meet with them to discuss and agree a joint approach to next steps once their initial assessment is complete.

We have also withdrawn our funding for the Wales Police Schools Programme. The Programme falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing and has been funded from the Health and Social Services portfolio (the substance misuse budget) which is under particular pressure. I understand that the Deputy Minister will be writing to the Health and Social Care Committee with some further detail of choices made within the substance misuse budget and I will ask if that letter can be shared with the Committee.

Overall, however, we believe we have achieved a proportionate balance between the requirement to respond to changing financial circumstances and the important ambitions in Delivering Justice for Wales. We will shortly be publishing our Delivering Justice for Wales progress report which will detail progress on the Delivering Justice work programme.

### **What engagement took place with voluntary organisations and stakeholders working in the criminal justice system to inform justice related spending proposals for 2024-25.**

### **Information on how Draft Budget allocations on justice will contribute to the reduction of inequality**

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## **Information about how planned spend on justice in 2024-25 will fulfil the requirements of the Welsh Government's socio-economic duty.**

All of these questions raise the same structural challenges in answering as the question on price rises above, about the extent to which the Welsh Government can consider every issue through a "justice prism", in the absence of a Minister for Justice and a dedicated justice Main Expenditure Group (MEG).

The impact on inequality and the socio-economic duty, and the need for engagement with stakeholders, will have been considered to the extent relevant within the context of each individual MEG and indeed within individual Budget Expenditure Lines (BELs). Some stakeholders have particularly broad areas of interest, and so for example we have engaged with policing colleagues across the budget process, as part of our longstanding approach to partnership working in Wales. Policing colleagues are now considering the impact of the budget and Welsh Government officials will meet with them to discuss and agree a joint approach to next steps once their initial assessment is complete.

The questions raised have not, however, been considered cumulatively in specific relation to expenditure on justice related activity, and to seek to do so would in our judgement be disproportionately resource intensive when set against the value it would offer.

### **If any changes have been made to planned spending for 2024-25 in response to the challenges related to prison capacity**

No specific changes to spending plans have been made, but there are clear risks arising from these challenges. For example, the Welsh Government's budget for prisoner education in Wales is set through consequential funding, and the UK Government remains responsible for the budget for education in prisons. It is understood there are no plans to increase the budget in light of increasing numbers of prisoners, which represents a pressure on prison education funding in the coming years.

Homelessness services across Wales are impacted by prison capacity in two ways; the high numbers of prisoners within the prison system impacts the delivery of homelessness services across Wales. In addition to this, staffing shortages within the prison system and the organisations contracted to provide support and advice to people entering and being discharged from prison further exacerbates the issue.

Prisoners are, at times, discharged ahead of schedule making planning support and accommodation much more difficult for local authorities who are challenged in times of completing assessments to meet the needs of people with complex needs and who present a risk to themselves and the communities where they are being resettled,

This makes an already challenging situation more difficult for local authorities who already face a shortage of housing and support packages for people with high support needs. Due to low numbers of staff in prisons as well as the challenges of recruitment, WG officials have been advised that housing assessments are often delayed on admission to prison with the result that some prisoners on short sentences are at risk of losing their accommodation due to the lack of communication with their landlord who does not know they are in custody. We have no data to quantify this information.

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The factors referred to above have a financial implication for local authorities as well as a heightened risk for former prisoners.

## **Information on how draft budget allocations related to justice will support actions to reduce imprisonment rates in Wales, particularly amongst people with protected characteristics.**

## **Information about preventative action that will be funded by proposed allocations on justice-related spending in 2024-25**

The Delivering Justice for Wales work programme contains many commitments aimed at preventing and reducing imprisonment rates in Wales.

### *Blueprints*

The Blueprints for Women's Justice and Youth Justice support and divert vulnerable people away from crime and towards better futures for themselves, their families, and their communities. Despite challenging budgets, we have maintained funding for the delivery of the Women's Justice and Youth Justice Blueprints as we recognise the important part they play in supporting vulnerable people. For 2024-25 budget the total available budget for delivery of the Blueprints is £1.072m, essentially the same as for 2023-24.

The Women's Justice and Youth Justice Blueprints BEL will be used in 2024-25 to directly support a number of practical programmes which make a real difference to people in Wales. This includes the Women's Pathfinder Whole System Approach, the Visiting Mum programme and VAWDASV support for Welsh women in custody.

The Women's Justice Blueprint has delivered a range of positive outcomes since it was established in 2019, from initiatives such as the Women's Pathfinder Whole System Approach and Visiting Mum, through to sentencer engagement work and establishing prevention schemes across the whole of Wales.

The Women's Pathfinder Whole System Approach is a cornerstone of the Women's Justice Blueprint and is helping women to address issues such as mental health at every stage of the justice system, ensuring we divert women away from unnecessary and disruptive custodial sentences. An independent evaluation of the Women's Pathfinder Whole System Approach and 18-25 Early Intervention Service undertaken by Cordis Bright (2022) highlighted a number of positive findings around how the service has supported women to address needs and vulnerabilities linked to offending. The evaluation also identified improvements in personal outcomes for those referred, including improvements in mental health and wellbeing, physical health and family relationships. Part of the Blueprint budget will be used to support the continuation of the Women's Pathfinder Whole System Approach service in South Wales and Gwent, and its extension across North Wales and Gwent.

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## *Homelessness*

Within the Draft Budget we have protected funding for homelessness prevention, providing additional revenue funding of £2m in the Homelessness Support and Prevention budget, which now stands at over £214m. Our continued significant investment in homelessness prevention delivers on key policy objectives, in particular tackling poverty and disadvantage, improves outcomes for individuals and families, and reduces pressures on other public services.

We are also providing indicative funding for third sector projects in 2024-25. This includes funding for Housing First, Youth Innovation, Shelter Cymru and of course Cymorth Cymru.

Within the Homelessness Support and Prevention Budget, we have protected funding to the Housing Support Grant (HSG), maintaining it at the current level of £166.8m despite the extraordinarily difficult budgetary position.

The HSG is the main homelessness prevention grant and assists people with a range of support needs to live independently and sustain tenancies, thus reducing pressures on other public services (particularly health and social care).

## *VAWDASV*

Subject to the final budget settlement, Welsh Government funding for VAWDASV is continuing at the present level of £8.005 million in 2024-25. This reflects our commitment to protecting women and girls across Wales. While this is a positive outcome given the overall budget situation, inflation combined with increasing demand for services mean that many front line VAWDASV services will still be under great pressure in the year ahead. Welsh Government officials will be working with our stakeholders over the coming months to review our VAWDASV funding arrangements to ensure they are as fair and effective as possible.

## **Information about the degree to which preparatory work for the devolution of justice will continue in light of budgetary pressures.**

Work to prepare for the devolution of justice is predominantly covered through the Justice Transformation BEL which will continue to receive £480,000 over the course of the financial year. The costs to be met from the Justice Transformation BEL are primarily staffing costs. However, this BEL is also expected to be used for commissioning external services such as research and analysis for the purposes of furthering our understanding of justice devolution. We expect preparatory work to continue over the next financial year. The upcoming Delivering Justice for Wales progress report will set out ambitions for the year ahead.

## **Tribunal reform**

The work in hand on the tribunal reform project to take forward proposals for a new tribunal system for Wales is resourced from the Justice Transformation BEL, as set out in the annex.

In the last financial year, we published a White Paper “A New Tribunal System for Wales” to consult on our proposals for reform. The consultation closed on 2 October. We received 54

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responses from respondents from a range of backgrounds and covering the scope of the proposed reforms. We aim to publish a summary of the responses at the end of January.

A new, unified system of tribunals can only be put in place with primary legislation. The scheduling of that legislation is subject to its own separate processes, and we are taking forward preparatory work ahead of that legislation being formally timetabled.

**Information on planned spend in 2024-25 on the delivery of the Welsh Government's programme to improve the accessibility of Welsh law including the proposed changes to the programme announced in the annual report on the programme for 2022-23.**

When I provided evidence to support the Committee's consideration of the Government's draft budget for 2023-24 I explained that the costs of our work to deliver *The Future of Welsh law* are met from across a number of portfolios as part of the wider legislative activity of the organisation. That remains the position for 2024-25 and indeed will do so in future years; I confirm this position applies to the revised programme I laid before the Senedd on 19 January.

In my annual report on progress against the original programme (November 2023), I included a review of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 which amongst other matters dealt with resourcing implications. This set out (as I confirmed it would in my letter to you of 2 March 2023) details of the additional staffing which has been put in place to support delivery of the programme. It also explained the limitations of being able to quantify the full range of costs associated with wide range of staff resources involved in (particularly) preparation of the legislative projects, both primary and subordinate.

However, I am able to confirm that in 2024-25 the costs of Legislative Counsel and Legislative Translators working on the Legislation Bill and the Planning Bill and the work of the Legislative Codes Office to support the programme as a whole and deliver specific projects falls to BEL 6720 – Staff Costs.

There are also very modest IT costs associated with the support and maintenance of the Cyfraith Cymru/Law Wales website, expected to be less than £7,000 for 2024-25, which will fall to BEL 6860 – IT costs.

**Information on planned spending in this area to support the Welsh Government's ambition to increase provision of accessible bi-lingual legislation.**

There is no specific additional expenditure solely dedicated to increasing the provision of accessible bilingual legislation in the 2024-25 draft budget. Rather it is the case that all the work in the programme contributes to and supports this important ambition.

**Information on what actions and outcomes the funding for 2024-25 on the Constitutional Commission will be used to deliver.**

The draft budget was necessarily determined prior to the report of the Constitutional Commission being received. However, it was considered prudent to retain budgetary provision for consideration and taking forward of the Commission's recommendations in

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advance of knowing what those recommendations might be. We are now considering the Commission's report, and will set out our plans for taking it forward in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

**Mick Antoniw AS/MS**

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

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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Welsh Government's draft budget proposals for 2024-25 and allocation of resources to justice related activity**

MEG <sup>1</sup>	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s 23-24	Indicative 24- 25 Allocation	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
Central Services & Administration	External Bodies & Services	Justice Transformation	490	480	Co-ordinating the Justice Transformation programme across Government and the response to the recommendations of the Commission on Justice in Wales, pursuing and preparing for the devolution of justice, supporting engagement with the UK Government Justice Commission recommendations, developing the legal sector including engagement with the Law Council of Wales, taking forward work relating to the Welsh Tribunals including proposals for reform as set on in the White Paper "A New Tribunal System for Wales".
Central Services & Administration	External Bodies & Services	Tribunals	4,193	4,110	Administration and support of the Welsh Tribunals through the Welsh Tribunals Unit.
Central Services & Administration	Central Programmes	Civil Contingencies & National Security	350	350	The National Security and Resilience Division (NSRD) is responsible for enhancing the Welsh Government's ability to plan, prepare for, respond to and recover from disruptive challenges in Wales.

1 "MEG": Main Expenditure Group, "SPA": Spending Programme Area, "BEL": Budget Expenditure Line.

MEG <sup>1</sup>	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s 23-24	Indicative 24- 25 Allocation	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
					<p>The Division will continue to lead on policy development, and operational response in relation to civil contingencies, incident response, emergency planning, cyber resilience, national security and counter terrorism.</p> <p>The overarching budget allows the Division to deliver against a series of key priorities in relation to the above and support the emerging crisis management agenda.</p> <p>NSRD has committed to work with South Wales Police (SWP) to part fund a Subject Matter Expert on Counter Terrorism.</p> <p>While NSRD activities support Counter terrorism and serious organised crime initiatives - no budget is specifically assigned to the BEL, and it is not included in the Draft Budget tables.</p> <p>Any spend in previous years has been managed within the CSA MEG.</p>
Finance & Local Government	Healthcare Inspectorate Wales	Healthcare Inspectorate Wales	4,945	4,945	While Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) has a statutory duty to inspect health care and substance misuse in prisons in England and Wales, there is a <a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding</a> between HMIP and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW), in which HIW may accompany HMIP on routine inspections of public sector prisons. HIW's focus

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MEG <sup>1</sup>	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s 23-24	Indicative 24- 25 Allocation	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
					regarding prisons is in relation to the quality and safety standards and governance arrangements for the provision of prison health services by the health boards in Wales. <sup>2</sup>
Social Justice	Equality, Inclusion & Human Rights	Equality, Inclusion & Human Rights	10,970	9,773	<p><u>Human Rights</u><sup>3</sup></p> <p>Work will be taken forward in relation to the following action areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparatory legislative work;</li> <li>• development of Human Rights guidance;</li> <li>• incorporation of Human Rights into Integrated Impact Assessment processes; and</li> <li>• widening Awareness of Human Rights.</li> </ul> <p>Work on these issues will be undertaken mainly by the Human Rights Team.</p> <p><u>Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan</u> The Programme for Government commitment to ensure the justice elements of the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan are robust and these matters will be addressed with the police and the courts. The Plan includes a specific chapter on crime and justice, and a</p>

<sup>2</sup> Justice-related activity has been allocated funding within the draft budget for that BEL.

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 2.

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MEG <sup>1</sup>	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s 23-24	Indicative 24- 25 Allocation	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
					<p>separate Criminal Justice Anti-Racism Action Plan for Wales was published in September 2021.</p> <p><u>Disability</u> An Access to Justice working group of the Disability Rights Task Force has heard presentations on hate crime, policing, sexual assault, and domestic violence and how these issues impact disabled people in Wales.</p>
Social Justice	Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights	Cohesive Communities	4,571	4,710	<p><u>Hate Crime</u> Funding of the Wales Hate Support Centre, run by Victim Support, to provide support and advocacy through the criminal justice system to all victims of hate crime in Wales. Funding of anti-hate crime communications campaign, Hate Hurts Wales to help raise awareness and increase reporting of hate crime. Exploring preventative work with perpetrators.</p>
Social Justice	Supporting Communities	Social Partnerships	961	800	<p>The budget allocation covers a wide range of work within Social Partnership, Employability and Fair Work directorate including wider Programme for Government commitments and their associated programme staff costs. It provides the resource for modern slavery justice related activity.<sup>4</sup></p>

<sup>4</sup> See footnote 2.

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MEG <sup>1</sup>	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s 23-24	Indicative 24- 25 Allocation	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
Social Justice	Supporting Communities	Basic Income	12,200	10,700	There is a process in place for how eligible care leavers entering and leaving custody access the Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales pilot. The budget allocation includes resource for ongoing work to continually review the process and any unique scenarios that arise throughout the delivery of the pilot.
Social Justice	Advocacy Services	Advice Services	12,811	11,675	The Single Advice Fund ensures there is a framework of generalist and specialist advice services across Wales, the Advice Quality Framework for Wales means people can be confident they are accessing a quality assured service; and our support for Regional Advice Networks is bringing key stakeholders together to shape regional priorities and ensure available resources are used effectively.
Social Justice	Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	8,144	8,005	<p>Leading the strategic direction and implementation of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse &amp; Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015, which includes an objective to 'Increase the focus on holding those who commit abuse to account and supporting those who may carry out abusive or violent behaviour to change their behaviour and avoid offending.</p> <p>The Strategy is now being delivered through the VAWDASV Blueprint, which includes workstreams on tackling perpetration; gender-based harassment in all public spaces; workplace harassment; older people's needs; children and young people's needs; and sustainable whole system approach.</p>

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MEG <sup>1</sup>	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s 23-24	Indicative 24- 25 Allocation	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
Social Justice	Women's Justice & Youth Justice Blueprints	Women's Justice & Youth Justice Blueprints	1,092	1,072	<p>Welsh Government contributions towards the Women's Justice and Youth Justice Blueprint for Wales. This includes funding for Blueprints programme management, and funding for schemes such as the Women's Pathfinder Whole System Approach and Visiting Mum which directly support people in the justice system.</p> <p>There will be a £20k transfer from the Community Support and Safety budget at Final Budget stage, which will joint-fund posts linked to the Criminal Justice Board for Wales and Integrated Offender Management Cymru.</p>
Social Justice	Community Support and Safety	Community Support and Safety	22,981	15,508	<p>Funding for Police Community Support Officers.</p> <p>There will be a £20k transfer to the Women's Justice and Youth Justice Blueprints budget at Final Budget stage, which will joint-fund posts linked to the Criminal Justice Board for Wales and Integrated Offender Management Cymru.</p>
Economy	Business Wales	Business Wales	27,264	20,926	Bespoke business support to the legal sector in Wales through the Business Wales service with interventions

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MEG <sup>1</sup>	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s 23-24	Indicative 24- 25 Allocation	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
					focusing on their challenges with recruitment, retention and resilience. <sup>5</sup>
Economy	Employability Including Young Persons Guarantee	Employability Including Young Persons Guarantee	100,206	97,351	Delivery of recommendations from David Hanson's review of offender learning.  Communities for Work - Preventative services that may help us with youth justice. Delivery of intensive employment mentoring and training to those furthest from the labour market. <sup>6</sup>
Economy	Sectors & Business	Valleys Task Force	100	100	Preventative services that may help us with youth justice, including economic development, improving skills and developing the natural environment. <sup>7</sup>
Economy	Apprenticeships	Apprenticeships	135,792	138,648	Funding to deliver apprenticeship provision via a network of ten lead commissioned contract holders. The budget also funds support activity underpinning delivery quality and inclusion - such as Employer Incentive for Disabled apprentices.
Education & Welsh Language	Welsh Language	Welsh Language	24,149	22,404	The budget allocation funds a range of activity including provision of education pathways and language technology work, e.g., including funding of Canolfan Bedwyr of Bangor University. <sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> See footnote 2.

<sup>6</sup> See footnote 2.

<sup>7</sup> See footnote 2.

<sup>8</sup> See footnote 2.

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MEG <sup>1</sup>	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s 23-24	Indicative 24- 25 Allocation	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
Education & Welsh Language	Youth Engagement & Employment	Offender Learning	7,328 <sup>9</sup>	7,328	Funding for learning and skills delivery in prisons, delivered through His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) through procured contracts and direct delivery. A Memorandum of Understanding is in place with HMPPS. Of this funding, £3.328m is allocated to cover the costs of learning and skills provision in public sector South Wales prisons (HMP Usk/Prescoed, Cardiff and Swansea). A further £4m is allocated to cover the costs of learning and skills provision in HMP Berwyn in North Wales.
Education & Welsh Language	Wellbeing	Whole School Approach to Wellbeing	5,200	1,850 <sup>10</sup>	<p>The whole school approach relates to supporting the emotional, mental health and wellbeing of learners and staff in schools as well as trusted adults as part of the school community. The whole school approach framework places an emphasis on early identification and prevention. Funding provided to local authorities as part of this approach can be used to provide targeted support for early identification of young people at risk of disengaging from education, who are more vulnerable to ending up in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>There are several ongoing projects that make up the policy area funded from this MEG and BEL.<sup>11</sup></p>

<sup>9</sup> A transfer of £3.7m is expected in 2023-24 from the Ministry of Justice to support the provision of education and skills in HMP and YOI Parc which will be formalised in the Second Supplementary Budget 2023-24.

<sup>10</sup> Draft Budget 2024-25 included a transfer of local authority funding of £4.75m to an amalgamated Local Authority Education Grant. This funding will still support the whole school approach to mental health in local authorities.

<sup>11</sup> See footnote 2.

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MEG <sup>1</sup>	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s 23-24	Indicative 24- 25 Allocation	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
Health & Social Services	Health Central Budgets	Mental Health	88,601	78,062	This budget allocation provides resource to health boards, Regional Partnership Boards and others to support mental health and wellbeing, this includes direct service delivery for mental health and dementia, crisis intervention, early intervention and the whole school approach <sup>12</sup> .
Health and Social Services	Health Central Budgets	Substance Misuse	50,485	49,985	The budget allocation supports our 7 Area Planning Boards and other activities to reduce the harms from substance misuse. In 24-25 this will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £3m per annum to support ongoing alternative Opioid Substitution Therapy (Buprenorphine) for at risk ex-heroin users.</li> <li>• £2m per annum ring-fenced to support residential rehabilitation placements.</li> <li>• £4.5m to support services for people with housing and complex needs.</li> <li>• £6.25m ring-fenced allocation for children and young people.<sup>13</sup></li> </ul> This Budget previously included funding for the Wales Police Schools Programme, which has now been withdrawn.

<sup>12</sup> See footnote 2.

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MEG <sup>1</sup>	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s 23-24	Indicative 24- 25 Allocation	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
Health & Social Services	Supporting Children	Children and Communities Grant (“CCG”)	172,269	174,583	Implementation of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act is supported by a funding stream of up to £797,423 for the Out of Court Parenting Support grant, which is administered through the CCG.
Health & Social Services	NHS Delivery	Core NHS Allocations	8,253,211	8,611,185	Partnership agreement for Prison Health in Wales. This includes Welsh Government led work streams on mental health, substance misuse and medicines management.  There is also a workstream on the prison environment which is led by HMPPS. Welsh Government allocated an additional recurrent funding from 2019/20 (£1.2 million) to support local health boards to improve access to health services in the public prison estate. The aim of the funding is to support improvements to health, mental health and co-occurring mental health and substance misuse services for people in prisons and has been allocated to those Health Boards that have public sector prisons (Swansea Bay UHB, Aneurin Bevan UHB, and Cardiff and Vale UHB). Separate funding arrangements are in place for HMP Berwyn, and also HMP Parc. <sup>14</sup>
Health & Social Services	Supporting Children	Supporting Children	3,865	3,865	Funding for family justice policy and activity that enables reductions in the number of children coming into care, improved outcomes and experiences of

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MEG <sup>1</sup>	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s 23-24	Indicative 24- 25 Allocation	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
					<p>children.<sup>15</sup> Recurrent funding of £850K is provided to local authorities to support Reflect Services through the Revenue Support Grant.</p> <p>There was a grant awarded in 2020-21 (to South-East Wales Local Family Justice Board - pilot of a Family Drug and Alcohol Court model ref 20-21/073) which was paid in advance in 20-21 that covered the period February 2021 to 31 August 2023.</p>
Health & Social Services	Sustainable Social Services	Sustainable Social Services	107,128	98,907	<p>Analysis and evaluation of the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.<sup>16</sup> The Act set out requirements to ensure local services are provided to prevent children from offending and to promote their future welfare.</p>
Health & Social Services	Supporting Children	Support for Families and Children	11,710	5,960	<p>A proportion of the budget allocation funds awareness-raising and monitoring activity in relation to the implementation of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020.</p>
Health & Social Services	Cafcass Cymru	Cafcass Cymru	15,195	15,873	<p>Funding for Cafcass Cymru and delivery of a statutory service to the Family Court in Wales on behalf of the Welsh Ministers, working with over 11,500 vulnerable children each year.</p>

<sup>15</sup> See footnote 2.

<sup>16</sup> See footnote 2.

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MEG <sup>1</sup>	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s 23-24	Indicative 24- 25 Allocation	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
Climate Change	Housing Policy	Homelessness	46,147	214,910  (NB: this budget has been merged with previous Housing Support BEL for 2024/25. If the two BELs had been combined in 2023/24 the value for 23/24 would have been £212,910)	Accommodating Welsh offenders, Welsh Government and HMPPS in Wales have committed to taking a collaborative strategic approach to prevent and address homelessness for all Welsh offenders. This work is aimed at ensuring policy differences do not affect prisoners' housing outcomes on release.  Improving implementation of the National Pathway for homelessness services for Children, Young People and Adults in the secure estate.  Housing solutions for offenders in the Welsh Criminal justice system being tested and evaluated through a number of projects including a specific Housing First project in Cardiff. <sup>17</sup>

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