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Dear Elin

The UK Government introduced the Criminal Justice Bill to the House of Commons on 14 November 2023.

The Bill includes a wide range of measures impacting on areas such as knife crime, drug testing on arrest, anti-social behaviour, serious and organised crime, Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, prison capacity and the sentencing process. It also includes the successor legislation for the Vagrancy Act 1824, and a new duty of candour for policing, amongst other things.

My officials have been engaging with officials in the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice, which has included the sharing of outlines of the measures expected to be introduced as part of the Bill. However, officials only had sight of the final version of the Bill in full less than twenty four hours prior to it being introduced.

The Bill comprises 17 parts and is 156 pages long. From our initial analysis, it appears the Bill touches upon areas of devolved competence. However, given the breadth of the Bill and the lack of advance sight of it in full it has not yet been possible to fully consider the devolution consequences of what is being proposed.

I intend to lay a Legislative Consent Memorandum and any other relevant statements before the Senedd as soon as we have a clear picture of the devolution consequences of the proposed legislation, however, it is likely this will be outside the normal two-week Standing Order 29 deadline.

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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.

I am copying this letter to the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution, Mick Antoniw MS, the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, Lesley Griffiths MS and the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Huw Irranca-Davies MS.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter of "Jane".

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Justice