

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y
Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH/PO/273/25

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair
Equality and Social Justice Committee
Welsh Parliament

SeneddEquality@senedd.wales

18 June 2025

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your letter of 12 May 2025 requesting an update on my discussions with Sir Nic Dakin MP, Minister for Justice regarding funding for the provision of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) for young people in the youth justice system in Wales.

To date, I have met the Minister for Justice twice. Our first meeting took place on 31 October 2024, which served as an introduction, following the Minister's appointment. The latter meeting took place on 20 March 2025, when we met in person to visit Cardiff Youth Justice Service together. The opportunity for a detailed discussion on the provision of SLT for young people in the youth justice system during our visit did not arise, however, I look forward to having regular meetings with the Minister for Justice, which are being arranged. I will raise this issue at a future meeting.

I am also committed to meeting with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and I am working to find a date to facilitate this discussion, in the near future.

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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.

It is crucial to prevent young people from coming into contact with the youth justice system, thus I welcome further discussion on the role SLT can play to support diversion. I will, of course, keep the Committee informed of discussions with both the Minister for Justice and the College, when there is something substantive to report.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal line above the first few letters.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

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