

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/359/25

Dame Diana Johnson

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17 July 2025

Dear Dame Diana,

It was good to see you at the Police Bravery Awards on 10 July, to celebrate our police forces for the work they do every day to keep our communities safe.

Looking ahead, I welcome the opportunity for us to reschedule our bilateral meetings, so we can commit to meeting regularly to discuss important issues in this space.

One such important issue I wish to raise is the potential authorisation of Taser 10, for use by police forces in England and Wales.

I received a letter from the Equality and Social Justice Committee and the Children, Young People and Education Committee on 4 July, which brought this issue to my attention. I was concerned to hear of this proposed policy position, and I took an action to write to you for further assurances.

As you are aware, our vision is for an evidence-based, trauma-informed criminal justice system in Wales, to prevent crime happening in the first place. We are committed to the fair and equal provision of devolved services so everyone in the criminal justice system has the support they need to live successful, crime-free lives. This approach is exemplified by the Youth Justice Blueprint, which we developed jointly with the Ministry of Justice, Policing in Wales, the Youth Justice Board and third-sector partners. It recognises the commitment to the delivery of children's rights in Wales and the whole-system approach takes account of the relevant articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the design of youth justice services for Wales. It sets out the ambition for a rights-based and trauma-informed system, which will support services to deliver positive outcomes for children. We are also committed to delivering an Anti-Racist Wales with our Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan, which holds specific goals and actions set to deliver tangible, measurable outcomes that directly and positively impact on the lives of ethnic minority people at the grassroots level.

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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 aware you received a written question in April 2025, querying whether a Child Rights Impact Assessment would be conducted before the potential authorisation of Taser 10 for use by police forces in England and Wales. I noted your response assured that the UK Government decisions on whether to approve Taser for police use were informed by robust, independent technical and medical testing and assessments alongside an equality impact assessment which sets out any implications for those with protected characteristics, including age.

I am concerned that this policy position might be incompatible with the UN Convention on Rights of a Child. I would therefore welcome further details regarding the evidence base and assessments carried out, to ensure this approach does not negatively impact children and young people and does not disproportionately impact children and young people from ethnic minority backgrounds. I would also like to take the opportunity to request further information and assurances regarding how the UK Government intend to assess the impact of this policy position on children, in England and Wales. Will the UK Government conduct and publish a Children's Rights Impact Assessment?

I look forward to receiving further information and assurances from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

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