



Gwasanaeth Carchardai a
Phrawf EM yng Nghymru

HM Prison & Probation
Service in Wales

Jenny Rathbone AS
Chair of Equality and Social Justice Committee
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Dear Ms Rathbone,

I am writing to you in response to your request to understand the number of children in Wales that are affected by parental imprisonment.

The Ministry of Justice is committed to supporting prisoners by helping to maintain family ties, which is known to contribute to reducing reoffending.

The latest *Official Statistics in Development* [publication](#), produced through the BOLD (Better Outcomes through Linked Data) programme, provides estimates of the number of children with a parent in prison across England and Wales. These estimates rely heavily on self-disclosed information, which means some data may be incomplete or inaccurate.

At present, it is not possible to disaggregate these figures specifically for Wales or by prison. However, the BOLD Families team is actively exploring the feasibility of producing more robust, disaggregated data on parental imprisonment in future.

We currently do not hold reliable data on the number of children in Wales affected by parental imprisonment. This is due to the division of responsibilities: the Ministry of Justice holds data relating to prisoners, while responsibility for children lies with the Department for Education and the Welsh Government. Under the BOLD programme, work is underway to link cross-government datasets relating to prisoners and their children and families. This includes improving data quality both for counting prisoners and for identifying their children.

Your sincerely,

Ian Barrow

Gwasanaeth Carchardai a Phrawf EF yng Nghymru a'r Gwasanaethau Llety Cymunedol
Executive Director HM Prison and Probation Service in Wales and Community
Accommodation Service