

**Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb  
a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol**

**Equality and Social Justice  
Committee**

Michelle Crotty  
Chief Executive  
Judicial Office for England and Wales

**Senedd Cymru**

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14 January 2026  
15 January 2026

Dear Michelle Crotty,

**Experiences of the criminal justice system**

The [Equality and Social Justice Committee](#) recently considered evidence in relation to experiences of the criminal justice system at its meeting on [15 December 2025](#).

The [Fact File report](#) presented by Dr. Rob Jones highlights that the number of Welsh prisoners on remand rose by 10 per cent in 2024 (804), together with the use of short custodial sentences.

We would appreciate your help to understand the judicial reasoning behind the sentencing and remand practices in Wales, especially for women. Specifically,

- What are the key principles or circumstances under which judges consider short custodial sentences appropriate, given evidence suggesting limited rehabilitative impact?
- What factors most commonly influence decisions to remand defendants in custody, especially in cases involving women?

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. We would appreciate a response by 13 February.

Yours Sincerely,



Jenny Rathbone AS

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee