

**Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb
a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol**

**Equality and Social Justice
Committee**

Jane Hutt MS

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd
and Chief Whip

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Dear Jane

February 6th 2026

Park Prison and learning about criminal justice in Wales

The Equality and Social Justice Committee considered evidence by Dr. Rob Jones in relation to the criminal justice system at its meeting on 15 December 2025 and in a subsequent exchange of correspondence.¹ He presented a briefing focusing on [The Expansion of HMP Parc: Wales' \(Growing\) Imprisonment Rate](#) and highlighted serious safety concerns for prisoners and staff.

We would appreciate if you could:

- review the briefing and provide your response to the concerns raised including what steps the Welsh Government will take; and
- outline the Welsh Government's position on the expansion of HMP Parc.

We have previously noted the limited capacity and funding for research on criminal justice in Wales and reiterate our call for the establishment of a Welsh criminal justice observatory to improve our understanding of the criminal justice system.

Recommendation 10 of our report on the implementation of the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan in 2024² was accepted in principle. We would appreciate an update on the progress made by the Welsh Government in collaboration with academia to date.

We look forward to receiving your response by 6 March.

¹ See [papers to note 4.5](#) of the meeting on 19 January 2026

² ESJ Committee, [Action, not words: Towards and anti-racist Wales by 2030](#), March 2024

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jenny Rathbone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'J'.

Jenny Rathbone AS

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