

Lord Bellamy KC
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Justice

28 April 2023

Dear Lord Bellamy

Equality and Social Justice Committee report: Women's experiences in the criminal justice system

Further to our letter of 9 March enclosing a copy of our [report](#) on women's experiences in the criminal justice system, we have now received the Welsh Government's response, a copy of which is attached for information. Given their relevance to your portfolio, we would welcome your comments in relation to the following recommendations and the subsequent commentary from the Welsh Government:

Recommendation 1: The Welsh Government should map out the cost of the services it provides to identify those that it is responsible for as part of the current devolution settlement and those that currently fall within the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice. This work should be carried out by June 2023 and the Welsh Government should keep us informed of progress.

Recommendation 7: The Welsh Government should work with the Ministry of Justice and HMPPS to identify gaps and to ensure there are sufficient community-based alternatives to custody available specifically for women across Wales.

Recommendation 8: The Welsh Government must work with counterparts in the Ministry of Justice and with HMPPS to more clearly articulate the purpose and services the proposed Residential Women's Centre will offer.

Recommendation 9: The Welsh Government should work with the Ministry of Justice to ensure that Wales is represented in the development of the operational instructions and guidance relating to Residential Women's Centres.

A Senedd debate on our report is scheduled to take place on 24 May and we would therefore be grateful to receive a response by midday on 17 May if possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Rathbone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee
Welsh Parliament

