

**Alun Davies AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a  
Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public  
Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref ARD/00502/18

Assembly members

3 August 2018

Dear Colleague,

During Plenary on 3 July, Julie Morgan AM asked for a statement on the proposals by the Ministry of Justice announced in their Female Offending Strategy, and in particular proposals for secure residential centres for women. The Leader of the House committed to my updating Members.

On 16 July I met Edward Argar MP and Rory Stewart MP, both of who are Ministers at the Ministry of Justice responsible for female offending and prisons policy.

The MoJ have, as Members will be aware, decided not to proceed with the development of more female prisons in England and Wales. I agree with this and am pleased that they are adopting a different approach to the way in which we treat female offenders.

Planning around the potential for pilot secure residential centres for women is at an early stage. However, I have made clear to Ministers at the MoJ that we are very interested in scoping the potential for such a centre in Wales. They have agreed that we will continue to discuss this over coming months. They have also agreed to work collaboratively with us as we develop our own approach to managing female offenders. This work will continue over the summer and early autumn.

I will keep Members fully up to date with developments and where appropriate will make further statements.

Yours sincerely

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