

Ruth Jones MP
Chair of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: SUB131006

19 January 2026

Dear Ruth,

EVIDENCE TO THE WELSH AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE

Thank you for your invitation to provide oral evidence to the Welsh Affairs Select Committee on 17th December 2025. In the evidence session I agreed to provide further information, which I am pleased to share below.

Self-harm / Distance from Home Data

The Committee queried if the MoJ collects or holds any data or research on links between self-harm rates and distance from home (specifically relating to female prisoners housed in HMP Eastwood Park and HMP Styal). I can confirm that the MoJ do not collect this. Given the small number of women in custody, breaking self-harm data down by distance from home or by home location could result in individuals being identifiable.

The challenge that physical distance presents for Welsh Women and their families in our care is addressed through several schemes. These include a contracted service “Visiting Mums” commissioned by HMPPS and Welsh Government and provided by PACT to support women and their children maintain contact. In addition, HMP and YOIs Eastwood Park and Styal employ Welsh speaking members of staff and provide written information in Welsh. HMPPS Wales colleagues work very closely with these prisons. Specifically, in HMP Eastwood Park HMPPS Wales have established several projects to provide resettlement support to Welsh Women. These projects include:

- Weekly multi agency discharge boards at 10 and 2 weeks prior to release including recalls, bringing together professionals involved in the women's care and resettlement planning.
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors commissioned by the Women's Justice Blueprint support safety planning and transition for victims of sexual violence back to their home area.

Digital Provision across the Welsh Prison Estate

Across HMPPS Wales, a range of digital provisions are available to support further learning and resettlement opportunities. These include:

- Way2learn – in cell learning for those with previous negative experience in a classroom setting (available at HMP Berwyn, HMP Cardiff & HMP Usk).
- Coracle in cell educational laptops providing additional learning resources and functionality, including higher education, is available in HMP Swansea, HMP Berwyn, HMP Parc and HMP Prescoed.
- All prisons in Wales also provide “Tenstar” a virtual driving simulator covering a range of driving skills in preparation for formal license applications.
- HMPPS in Wales is also developing the use of VR headsets in bespoke learning courses.

HMPPS continue to consider the most effective ways to integrate digital opportunities into learning, to improve access and consistency of provision throughout the time prisoners spend with us.

Education Data

The Committee requested information on Education data for Wales. Education in Wales is a devolved matter and therefore the information collected relating to this is the responsibility of the Welsh Government. I understand that Welsh Government do not publish this data.

Learning and Skills is delivered in prisons in Wales under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between HMPPS and Welsh Government. The [“Memorandum of understanding: Welsh Ministers and HM Prison and Probation Service and Schedule 2”](#) provides the detail of agreed KPIs and the Management Information HMPPS report to Welsh Government. The KPIs cover starts, completion, attainment and success rates. As part of our formal reporting to Welsh Government, each prison provides performance data quarterly against the MoU. I have asked officials to explore with Welsh Government whether the data collected should be published alongside the MoU.

Yours sincerely,



Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending