

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MB/MD/2594/15

Julie Morgan AM  
AM for Cardiff North  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

7 July 2015

Dear Julie,

### CHILDREN IN CARE WHO ENTER THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM

On the 23 June 2015, as part of First Minister's questions, you asked that I make a statement on the number of young people in care in Wales in the criminal justice system and the preventative measures we are currently taking. You raised this matter in light of the Prison Reform Trust's announcement of an independent review into why so many children in care end up in the justice system across the UK.

In relation to general data on children who offend and are also in care, Local Youth Offending Teams collate this information across each of their areas. My officials will liaise with the Youth Justice Board to gauge what the current picture is across Wales and will write to you once that information is to hand. Officials do collect data in relation to those children and young people held in secure conditions and were known to be children in care. As at 31 March 2014, of the 52 young people from Wales in custody, 9 were also in care.

In relation to broader point about preventative action, local authorities already have duties under the Children Act 1989 to promote the care and wellbeing of children they look after, including working with them where possible to prevent offending. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act strengthens these duties and will address problems of placement stability which is often a key factor in securing better outcomes for children.

Best wishes,

Mark

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