



Mick Antoniw MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardif Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

MoJ ref: ADR79396

7 July 2020

Dear Mick,

INQUIRY INTO MAKING JUSTICE WORK IN WALES – DATA ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Thank you for your letter of 19 June to the Lord Chancellor, regarding the inquiry into Making Justice work in Wales and in particular, user needs for Welsh justice data.

As you have noted, the Justice in Wales Working Group recommended that we should undertake a review of how data collection and publishing practices reflect the distinctiveness of Wales, where possible disaggregating data to give a clear picture of how justice in Wales functions. Disaggregation of Welsh data is a matter that we have been seeking to resolve for some time, particularly the challenges involved in categorising Welsh individuals in the justice system, but I am pleased to say that we have made considerable progress.

HMCTS in Wales currently collects data on existing legacy Case Management Systems at Court and Tribunal venue level for all jurisdictions. This data can be aggregated at a local reporting level e.g. Local Justice Area or Local Family Justice Board areas, and then summarised in a top level HMCTS Wales data set, which can be used in Wales for performance monitoring against workloads and all Key Performance measures. The Ministry of Justice aggregate the data for the Office for National Statistics, which are released Quarterly.

When considering changes to the court and tribunal estate, HMCTS will always assess local data for a particular court and the surrounding area. They will consider the workload and operating costs of the court but also, through an equalities assessment, local populations and their characteristics. They will assess local journeys to court by public transport to make sure that any likely future journeys meet HMCTS' access to justice principles.

Legal Aid Provider Statistics provide legal aid data at national/regional level, so data for Wales can be isolated from the overall data for England and Wales. This is based on the provider location, not the client location. The published statistics give the type of work undertaken, covering both civil and crime billing data for completed claims. This dataset includes data from 2011/12 onwards.

With respect to family justice, we publish data at a regional level, which can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895002/Family_Data_2020_Q1.zip. This data set includes:

- The number of cases started/finishing by region and by case type (with 'count' referring the number of applications/orders etc depending on the start/end selection)
- The timeliness by region and case type and legal representation status (note that those without representation are where representation isn't recorded, rather than specifically being litigants in person)

Whilst your request does not cover prisons and probation, I thought you would find it helpful to know that HMPPS currently provides published statistics on how offender management services in the community and in custody are delivered. These statistics include key statistics relating to offenders, staff and performance against agreed service levels and measures. Where possible, for prisons, the statistics are disaggregated to the establishment level, including prisons in Wales. Similarly, statistical publications relating to community supervision are disaggregated to a regional level, including Wales. A narrative account of HMPPS in Wales, reflecting the devolved structure of the organisation and activities is provided in HMPPS Annual Report and Accounts.

One important development this year, however, has been the funding announced by Administrative Data Research to the Ministry of Justice for the Data First project. This work will provide a platform to link together data from across the justice system to help our understanding of people's experiences, including people from Wales, and will also provide greater secure access to data for researchers in Wales.

I hope this information is helpful and I would be happy to answer any follow up questions you may have in relation to the inquiry.

Thank you again for getting in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Chalk', is centered on a light gray background.

ALEX CHALK MP