

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/5375/14

Darren Millar AM  
The National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

15 December 2014

Dear Darren,

**Health and Social Care Committee – 26 November 2014  
Cost of healthcare at the new prison, Wrexham**

As part of the questions raised within the Health and Social Care Committee, you asked about funding for the delivery of substance misuse services within the new prison, being built in Wrexham. The wider context of this question related to the funding provision for health and social care given these are devolved matters and the need to secure appropriate resources from the Ministry of Justice, which has commissioned this facility, in order to deliver the necessary services.

I can confirm that in order to secure an equitable settlement, I have written to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice setting out the Welsh Government's expectation that negotiations will commence formally early in the New Year. My officials, those of Betsi Cadwaldr University Health Board and the local authority have already started work on the detailed analysis necessary to agree a sustainable financial cost model. After taking responsibility for health care in public sector prisons it is fair to say we have a better understanding of the full costs. No final figure is agreed as yet and certainly not the level of individual issues such as substance misuse services. For comparison HMP Cardiff has a resident offender population of 811 and I am informed by the health board there is a budget of £2.3m to meet the health needs of this population. However, it must also be noted that the 'churn' of the prison population in Cardiff is 4,403, which may have a greater impact on healthcare need at any given time. So a direct comparison with other prisons that may have higher or lower rates may not be necessarily appropriate.

I am determined to ensure resources are secured to deliver all aspects of healthcare, including for those with substance misuse problems and related matters.

I am copying this to David Rees AM, chair of the Committee and the Minister for Public Services Leighton Andrews AM.

Best wishes

Mark Drakeford

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