

**Jeremy Miles AC/AM**

**Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog Brexit  
Counsel General and Brexit Minister**



**Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA - L/CG/0242/19

Rt Hon David Gauke MP  
Secretary of State for Justice  
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21 March 2019

Dear David,

The then First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, wrote to you on 10 October 2018 in response to your letter of 7 September about prisoner voting rights and the package of measures agreed between the UK Government and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to close the *Hirst* group of cases. The First Minister mentioned that we were considering the issues around prisoner voting in relation to the franchise for Welsh local government and Assembly elections (“devolved Welsh elections”) following their devolution.

The Assembly’s Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee is undertaking an inquiry into prisoner voting rights for devolved Welsh elections; it is expected to report after Easter. The Welsh Government will take decisions about its proposals for prisoner and young offender voting in light of the Committee’s findings. We are content that until such time as we may legislate for prisoner voting the changes which form part of the *Hirst* package of measures should apply for devolved Welsh elections in the meantime.

I shall write to you again with details of any proposals in due course.

I am copying this letter to the First Minister, the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the Llywydd as Chair of the Assembly Commission, the Chair of the Assembly’s Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee, and the Secretary of State for Wales.

Yours sincerely,

**Jeremy Miles AM**

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.