



Dr Chris Llewelyn

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive

**Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru
Welsh Local Government Association**

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29/5/2025

Andrew Morgan

leader@wlga.gov.uk

Councillor Beca Roberts
Chair of the Council
Cyngor Gwynedd

Via email

Dear Councillor Roberts,

Thank you for your letter dated 24th April informing me of Gwynedd Council's recent adoption of the proposal in relation to calls on the UK Government to transfer the jurisdiction of justice to the Senedd and seeking the support of Welsh councils and Welsh Government.

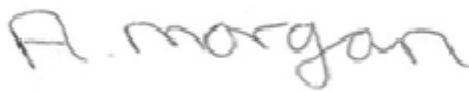
The WLGA has considered devolution of aspects of the justice system on a number of occasions and has responded to the various Commissions that have considered related issues over a number of years. These include the Silk Commission, the Thomas Commission and more recently the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales.

In contributing evidence to these Commissions, the WLGA has stated its position as being supportive of further devolution of powers and functions from the UK Government, including youth justice, probation and certain aspects of policing, recognising however that some aspects of protection provided by the police and security services, such as preventing terrorism, is best managed at a Wales and England level. The WLGA has also strongly made the point that any further devolution of functions must be accompanied by the necessary levels of funding to ensure service delivery is not negatively affected.

In sharing our views on the issues posed by the above Commissions, the WLGA noted that devolution of aspects of the justice system would lead to better alignment of agendas and priorities, avoid confusion caused by policy areas straddling devolved and non-devolved areas and lead to clearer accountability for citizens. I enclose a copy of the WLGA submission to the Thomas Commission which sets out our views, at that time, in more detail.

The WLGA does not have any current plans to reconsider the devolution of the justice system, but I would hope that our previous views and the evidence to the Thomas Commission reflects the Association's support for further devolution of functions if they lead to improved outcomes for citizens, and subject to the transfer of full funding for successful delivery of the service. Officers of the WLGA are engaged in various ongoing discussions on issues related to improving delivery of the criminal justice system in Wales including the potential for increased devolution of related functions, for example, engagement with the Wales Centre for Public Policy on a project commissioned by the Welsh Government to look at the potential for the devolution of probation; and with policing colleagues in relation to the anticipated White Paper from the UK Government on policing reform.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Andrew Morgan OBE
Leader, WLGA