

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Ein Cyf/Our Ref: AJ/ACH/2116

25 Mai 2020/May 2021

Annwyl Ysgrifennydd Cartref

Dear Home Secretary

Yn unol â'r statud, ysgrifennaf atoch gyda fy sylwadau ar Adroddiad Arolygaeth Heddluoedd a Gwasanaethau Tân ac **'Gwasanaethau'r ddalfa mewn amgylchfyd COVID-19'**.

As required by statute, I am writing to you with my comments on Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Service Report 'Custody services in a COVID-19 environment'.

Ymatebwyd i'r argymhellion yn benodol i Ddalfeydd o fewn yr adroddiad eisoes ar 21 Mai 2020 yn fy ateb i'ch adroddiad **'Plismona yn y Pandemig – Ymateb yr heddlu i'r pandemig Coronafeirws yn ystod 2020'**.

The Custody specific recommendations within the report were already responded to on 21st May 2021 in my reply to your report 'Policing in the Pandemic - The police response to the Coronavirus pandemic during 2020'.

Mae iechyd a llesiant y cyhoedd a charcharorion yn parhau'r pwysigrwydd mwyaf i swyddogion a staff yr heddlu. Nid yw hyn wedi bod yn fwy gwir i blismona nac yn ystod epidemig COVID 19.

The health and wellbeing of the public and detainees remains the primary consideration for police officers and staff and this has never been truer for policing than during the COVID 19 epidemic.

Mae yna lawer o heriau wedi bod i blismona yn ystod y cyfnod hwn ac maent wedi bod yn amrywiol. Tynnir sylw at hyn yn eich 'adroddiad Plismona mewn Pandemig'. Fodd bynnag, mae gwasanaethau'r ddalfa wedi wynebu eu hanawsterau penodol eu hunain.

The challenges of policing during this time have been many and varied, and this is captured in your 'Policing in a Pandemic report'. However, custody services have faced their own particular difficulties.

Rydych yn tynnu sylw bod gwrandawiaidau aildraddodi rhithiol wedi cael eu defnyddio'n eang yn Lloegr yn ystod y deuddeg mis diwethaf. Ond mae ganddynt oblygiadau costau, gallu a galw sylweddol i'r gwasanaeth heddlu. Roeddwn yn falch o weld y gwnaethoch nodi yn yr adroddiad hwn;

You point out that virtual remand hearings have been widely used in England during the last twelve months but they have significant costs, capacity and demand implications for the police service. I was glad to see that in this report you did note that;

Yng Nghymru, mae trefniadau gweithio ar y cyd da yn y System Cyfiawnder Troseddol drwyddi draw.

In Wales, there are good joint working arrangements throughout the Criminal Justice System. An agreement

Cytunwyd ar gadw'r llysoedd yn agored yn gyflym. Mae llysoedd rhithiol ond yn cael eu defnyddio ar gyfer carcharorion sydd â, neu a amheuir eu bod â, COVID-19.

Mae amgylchfyd y ddalffa'n peri risg ychwanegol i swyddogion a staff yr heddlu. Mae hyn oherwydd bod cyfle i gadw pellter yn aml yn groes i brosesau'r ddalffa sy'n aml yn cynnwys cyswllt agos gyda carcharorion. Mae hyn yn enghraifft arall o swyddogion a staff yr heddlu yn wynebu peryglon pellach i'w hiechyd wrth iddynt barhau i ddarparu gwasanaeth o safon yn ystod amgylchiadau eithriadol.

Rwyf yn cytuno bod ein dalffeydd a'u gwasanaethau wedi ymateb yn dda i'r problemau ddaeth yn sgil COVID-19. Gwnaethant weithredu'n gyflym i reoli galw a'u gwneud mor ddiogel â phosibl i staff, carcharorion ac ymwelwyr.

Mae anawsterau wedi bod wrth gwrs. Mae i'w ddisgwyl wrth wynebu sefyllfa mor ddigynsail, dieithr ac anhysbys. Ond ynghyd â'ch argymhellion ychwanegol, fe wnawn werthuso ac asesu ein cyflawniad a chymryd cyfleoedd i wella gwasanaethau'r ddalffa at y dyfodol.

to keep the courts open was made quickly. Virtual courts are only used for detainees who have, or are suspected of having, COVID-19.

The custody environment poses additional risk for police officers and police staff as opportunity for social distancing is often at odds with custody processes which frequently involve close contact with detainees. This is another example of police officers and staff facing further hazards to their health as they continue to provide a quality service during exceptional circumstances.

I agree that our custody suites and their services have responded well to the problems COVID-19 presents, acting quickly to manage demand and making them as safe as possible for staff, detainees and visitors.

Of course there will have been difficulties; it is to be expected when facing such an unprecedented, unknown and uncharted situation but alongside your additional recommendations we will evaluate and assess our performance and take opportunities to improve custody services for the future.

Yn Gwir/Yours Sincerely

Arfon Jones

Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd/ Police and Crime Commissioner