



## Public Accounts Committee

**Antonio Romeo**  
**Permanent Secretary**  
**Ministry of Justice**  
**102 Petty France**  
**London**  
**SW1H 9AJ**

3 November 2022

**Treasury Minute response- Improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system**  
**(51<sup>th</sup> Report Session 2021-22)**

Dear Permanent Secretary,

Thank you for the [Government's response](#) to the Committee's 51<sup>st</sup> Report of Session 2021-22 entitled, [Improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system](#).

However, it was disappointing to see that you have rejected recommendation 2 on estimating the proportion of women that could potentially be diverted to community support and the associated level of funding that would be required. Your response states that it is not possible to estimate a counterfactual to determine where an alternative intervention may have been respectively more successful and that it would be inappropriate for the Ministry to do so. But that is not what our recommendation asked you to do.

Our recommendation was essentially just for the Ministry to clarify the proportion of women that you believe could potentially be diverted to community options if the system were to work as the Female Offender Strategy intends and the associated cost. Nor did we ask, as you suggest we did, you to determine retrospectively whether other options would have been more successful or to comment on other bodies and their decisions. Please could you set out how you are determining the appropriate level of funding for women's services in the community without this estimate.

I also note that the Ministry's Female Offender Strategy Delivery Plan was due to be published in Summer 2022, but has not yet been published. The majority of your responses to our recommendations reference the Ministry's Female Offender Strategy Delivery Plan and I very much look forward to seeing the detail when that appears. Please could you confirm when the Plan will now be published. I would be grateful if you could provide a response to these points **by the end of the month**.

I am copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Treasury Officer of Accounts, and the Chair of the Justice Select Committee.

Yours sincerely,

**DAME MEG HILLIER MP**  
**CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**