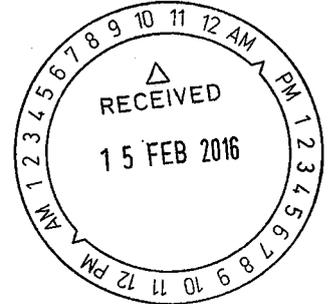




**The Hon Joe Francis MLA  
Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services;  
Small Business; Veterans**

Our reference: 51-08874/3



Hon Simon O'Brien MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
GPO Box A11  
PERTH WA 6837

**PETITION NO 98 – REMAND FACILITY FOR WOMEN**

Dear Mr O'Brien

Thank you for your letter of 2 December 2015 in response to Petition No 98, concerning the provision of services at the new Women's Remand and Reintegration Facility (WRRF). I understand that you are seeking more detailed information on services to be provided to support the use of non-custodial options and the reintegration of prisoners.

The Government is committed to avoiding incarceration, or minimising its duration, for people whose offending can be better managed through other means. For example, while the decision to grant or refuse bail rests with the courts, people granted bail are, in some instances, unable to meet the conditions set, such as stable accommodation or the provision of surety. This can result in people awaiting a court hearing while being held in prison. Of the 282 prisoners incarcerated for seven days or less during 2014–15, about a quarter had defaulted on fines only, and approximately a third were granted bail by the courts, but were not able to meet bail conditions. These individuals were remanded in prison.

One of the operational intents of the WRRF is to provide more assistance for women to access non-custodial options offered by the courts. WRRF seeks to offer services that will support:

- o women accessing bail prior to being processed into custody;
- o fine defaulters to pay their fines, and therefore avoid the alternative which would be a custodial sentence; and
- o the reintegration of women back into the community during custody and post-release.

These services will be undertaken in accordance with the *Bail Act 1982*.

The tender process for operating the WRRF is still underway, and it is expected that a contract will be awarded in 2016. As such the specific nature of services is yet to be finalised.

Once again, thank you for raising your concerns with me. I hope this information is of assistance with your inquiry.

Yours sincerely



**HON JOE FRANCIS MLA**  
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES;  
CORRECTIVE SERVICES; SMALL BUSINESS; VETERANS

**15 FEB 2016**