

Finance Committee remit

July 2021

Purpose

1. The paper sets out the remit and responsibilities of the Finance Committee.

Recommendation

2. The Committee is invited to note its remit.

Background

3. The rules and procedures of the Senedd are laid out in Standing Orders. Standing Order 16.1 requires the Senedd to establish committees with power within their remit to:

- “(i) examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the government and associated public bodies;
- (ii) examine legislation;
- (iii) undertake other functions specified in Standing Orders; and
- (iv) consider any matter affecting Wales.”

4. In doing this, the Business Committee has to ensure that every area of responsibility of the Welsh Government and associated public bodies, and all matters relating to the legislative competence of the Senedd and functions of the Welsh Ministers and of the Counsel General, are subject to committee scrutiny.

Committee remit

5. The remit of this Committee, as agreed by the Senedd on 23 June 2021, is:
 - to carry out the functions of the responsible committee set out in Standing Orders 18.10, 18.11, 18A, and 19 of the Senedd;
 - under Standing Order 19, the committee’s responsibilities include considering any report or document laid before the Senedd concerning the use of resources, or expenditure from the Welsh



Consolidated Fund, including undertaking budget scrutiny of the bodies directly funded from the Welsh Consolidated Fund;

- under Standing Orders 18.10 and 18.11, the committee's responsibilities include oversight of the governance of the Wales Audit Office, as set out in the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013;
- under Standing Order 18A, the committee's responsibilities include oversight of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales;
- the committee may also consider any proposals for, and the progress of, the devolution of fiscal powers to Wales as part of its responsibilities; and
- the committee may scrutinise legislation introduced to the Senedd.

6. A more detailed list of the Committee's remit is attached at Annex 1. Further details on the wider roles and responsibilities of Senedd committees are set out in the [Business Committee's report](#), laid before the Senedd on 23 June 2021.

Annex 1: Committee responsibilities

The Finance Committee's main role includes:

- annual scrutiny of:
 - the **Welsh Government's Draft Budget** (and associated supplementary budgets);
 - the **Senedd Commission's Draft Budget** (and associated supplementary budgets)
 - **Audit Wales' Estimate** (and associated supplementary estimates);
 - the **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales' Estimate** (and associated supplementary estimates);
- considering the financial implications of Senedd Bills and reporting at Stage 1;
- considering any Senedd Bill introduced to the Senedd which is referred to the Committee by the Business Committee;
- oversight of the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office;
- oversight of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.