



Ein cyf/Our ref: CG/10081/21

David Rees MS,
Chair
Llywydd's Committee
Senedd Cymru

seneddllc@senedd.wales

5 October 2021

Dear David,

I am writing in response to your letters of 27 September to myself and the Minister for Finance and Local Government, about the Electoral Commission's financial estimate for 2022-23 relating to its work on devolved Welsh elections and its five-year plan for 2022-23 to 2026-27. I am replying as the Minister responsible for elections, but I am copying this letter to the Minister for Finance and Local Government given her interest in expenditure out of the Welsh Consolidated Fund and in the administration of elections by local authorities.

While we are yet to receive confirmation of the level of funding, which will be transferred to Wales by HM Treasury in relation to these costs, from the discussions held we anticipate it will be of an amount which would provide sufficient cover for the expenditure outlined in the estimate. Any sums not covered by the transfer would have to be found from elsewhere within the resources available to Wales, thereby reducing the sums available for other activities covered by the Annual Budget Motion.

I can confirm that the activities described by the Electoral Commission in the estimate and five-year plan are in line with the Welsh Government's expectations about what will be required during the periods these cover and the planned elections during that timeframe. This includes work we have commenced on a number of pilots to address Ministerial priorities and on continued awareness raising amongst newly enfranchised voters. The Committee may wish to be aware that expenditure for the 2022 local government elections is likely to fall within the current financial year and the 2022-23 financial year.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Mick.Antoniw@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Mick.Antoniw@gov.Wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

My officials have worked with the Electoral Commission to put in place a payment agreement, which sets out how the Welsh Government will pay it from the Welsh Consolidated Fund, according to the budget agreed by the Senedd. The first two payments for 2021-22 have been made to the Electoral Commission and a process is in place for making subsequent ones.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mick Antoniw AS/MS

Gwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution