

Chair, Children, Young People, and Education
Committee
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
Chair, Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and
Infrastructure Committee
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee
Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations Committee
Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

07 December 2021

Dear Committee Chairs

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022-23

On 16 July 2021, I wrote to you to share the Finance Committee's thinking in relation to our programme of engagement for the forthcoming Welsh Government's Draft Budget and our approach to scrutiny. I am now writing to provide an update on this work.

Engagement

Between 17 September and 26 November 2021, the Finance Committee undertook a consultation seeking information on the Draft Budget on behalf of all Committees. The consultation responses are available on the Finance Committee webpage.

In addition, a series of focus groups were held to gather the views and experiences of citizens of Wales who are service users within particular fields or impacted directly by draft budget decisions.



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A report summarising the key themes and issues from these focus groups will be available mid-December and the link will be circulated to your Committee clerks.

Budget focus

It is likely that the 2022-23 Draft Budget will continue to be impacted by the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the Finance Committee has identified a number of areas which we would like to see the focus of scrutiny, these are:

- *how resources should be targeted to support economic recovery and what sectors in particular need to be prioritised;*
- *to what extent alleviating climate change should be prioritised in supporting economic recovery;*
- *how budget allocations support aspirations of the Net Zero Wales plan;*
- *Welsh Government policies to reduce poverty and gender inequality;*
- *approach to preventative spending and how is this represented in resource allocations (preventative spending = spending which focuses on preventing problems and eases future demand on services by intervening early);*
- *sustainability of public services, innovation and service transformation;*
- *how evidence is driving Welsh Government priority setting and budget allocations;*
- *how the Welsh Government should use taxation powers and borrowing;*
- *support for businesses, economic growth and agriculture post-EU transition;*
- *what are the key opportunities for Government investment to support 'building back better' (i.e. supporting an economy and public services that better deliver against the well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations Act).*

We hope that the consultation and engagement work will complement and inform the work of policy Committees and I would encourage you to use some of the areas outlined above as the focus for your budget scrutiny.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the Draft Budget process, please feel free to contact me or the Clerk to the Finance Committee, Owain Roberts, 0300 200 6388, seneddfinance@senedd.wales.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peredur Owen Griffiths'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'P' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

