



Huw Irranca-Davies MS,
Chair,
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

seneddLJC@senedd.wales

10 January 2022

Dear Chair,

I am writing in response to your letter of 10 December requesting information on the Welsh Government's draft budget proposals for 2022-23 and the allocation of resources to justice related activity.

The Annex to this letter indicates resources in the draft budget from which justice work will be delivered. The Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution is writing to you separately on matters that include legislative capacity and the accessibility of Welsh law.

To reiterate my comments to your predecessor Committee as set out in my letter of 26 November 2020, spending on justice related activity is not separately disaggregated in either our budget or annual accounts. This reflects the reality that the devolution settlement now in place does not fund the Welsh Government to have a justice function. It also reflects the cross-cutting nature of current justice related activity across Ministerial portfolios.

You have highlighted that the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution does not hold the budget for a justice portfolio. However, as Chair of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Justice the Counsel General plays a pivotal role in leading the Sub-Committee to deliver on its remit. Not only does the Sub-Committee provide strategic direction to, and accountability for, the alignment across Government of justice functions currently devolved to Wales, it also leads on our engagements with the UK Government to take forward discussions on the devolution of justice.

It was, of course, a recommendation of the Commission on Justice in Wales for the Welsh Government to strengthen leadership and accountability on justice matters. We established the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Justice to pick up that mantle. The Commission also concluded that justice should be determined and delivered in Wales. This Government has made clear its position to take forward the Commission's vision through our Programme for Government commitment to pursue the case for the devolution of policing and justice.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@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.

I hope that this response is of assistance to the Committee and to its scrutiny of the Government's draft budget proposals for 2022-23. Again, to reiterate comments I have made previously, as part of the on-going justice transformation programme we will explore if there are any ways in which we can improve the level of information we provide about justice expenditure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first letter "M" is large and prominent, followed by "ark", then "Drakeford".

MARK DRAKEFORD

Welsh Government's draft budget proposals for 2022-23 – allocation of resources to justice related activity

MEG¹	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
Central Services & Administration	External Bodies & Services	Justice Commission in Wales	490	Co-ordinating the Justice Transformation programme across Government and the response to the recommendations of the Commission on Justice in Wales, supporting engagement with the UK Government on the devolution of justice, developing the legal sector including the establishment of the Law Council of Wales, taking forward work relating to the Welsh Tribunals including reform pursuant to the Law Commission review of devolved tribunals in Wales.
Central Services & Administration	External Bodies & Services	Tribunals	4,148	Administration and support of the Welsh Tribunals through the Welsh Tribunals Unit.
Economy	Business Wales / Entrepreneurship and Regional Economy	Business Wales	17,116	Bespoke business support to the legal sector in Wales during 2022/23 through the Business Wales service with interventions focusing on their challenges with recruitment, retention and resilience. ²
Economy	Employability Including Young Persons Guarantee	Employability Including Young Persons Guarantee	90,936	Delivery of recommendations from David Hanson's review of offender learning. ³
Health & Social Services	Supporting Children	Supporting Children	3,865	Funding for family justice policy and activity that enables reductions in the number of children coming into care, improved outcomes and experiences of children. ⁴ Recurrent funding of £850K is provided to local authorities to support Reflect Services through the Revenue Support Grant.
Health & Social Services	CAFCASS Cymru	CAFCASS Cymru	14,725	Funding for CAFCASS Cymru.

¹ "MEG": Main Expenditure Group, "SPA": Spending Programme Area, "BEL": Budget Expenditure Line.

² Justice related activity has been allocated funding within the draft budget for that BEL.

³ See footnote 2.

⁴ See footnote 2.

MEG	SPA	BEL	Allocation £000s	Justice related activity resourced by BEL
Health & Social Services	Support for Families and Children	Supporting Children	7,975	Framework to support positive change for those at risk of offending in Wales, 2018-2023 and removal of the defence of “reasonable chastisement”. ⁵
Health & Social Services	Sustainable Social Services	Sustainable Social Services	99,715	Analysis and evaluation of the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2015. ⁶
Social Justice	Advocacy Services	Advice Services	10,175	Under the Information and Advice Action Plan for Wales ensuring: strategically planned and integrated grant funding for social welfare advice services, through the Single Advice Fund; implementation of the Advice Quality Framework; and promotion of networking as a means of helping people attain a better understanding of accessing their individual rights.
Social Justice	Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	7,875	Leading the strategic direction and implementation of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015, which includes an objective to “hold perpetrators to account and provide them with opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety”.
Social Justice	Female Offending and Youth Justice Blueprints	Female Offending and Youth Justice Blueprints	1,075	Pursuing the Blueprints on: Female Offending, including a residential centre and Approved Premises provision; and Youth Justice.
Social Justice	Community Support and Safety	Community Support and Safety	22,625	Funding for Police Community Support Officers. ⁷

⁵ See footnote 2.

⁶ See footnote 2.

⁷ See footnote 2.