

Concise Minutes – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue: **Hybrid – Committee room 4 Ty Hywel and video conference via Zoom**

This meeting can be viewed on [Senedd TV](http://senedd.tv) at: <http://senedd.tv/en/12995>

Meeting date: Wednesday, 12 October 2022

Meeting time: 09.30 – 12.00

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Peredur Owen Griffiths MS (Chair) Peter Fox MS Mike Hedges MS Rhianon Passmore MS
Witnesses:	Michelle Morris, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Chris Vinestock, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Katrin Shaw, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Kevin Thomas, Audit Wales Laurie Davies, Wales Audit Office
Committee Staff:	Leanne Hatcher (Second Clerk) Georgina Owen (Second Clerk) Mike Lewis (Deputy Clerk) Owen Holzinger (Researcher) Christian Tipples (Researcher) Craig Griffiths (Legal Adviser)



Private pre-meeting – Informal (09.15–09.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the Finance Committee.

2 Paper(s) to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

2.1 **PTN 1 – Correspondence from the Scottish Parliament's Finance and Public Administration Committee: Levelling Up agenda – 5 October 2022**

3 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) – Scrutiny of Annual Report and Accounts 2021–22, and Estimate 2023–24: Evidence session

3.1 The Committee took evidence from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW); and PSOW officials.

3.2 The PSOW agreed to provide a note clarifying whether a suspension of more than six months given to a local councillor would automatically trigger a by-election.

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting and the meeting on 20 October 2022

4.1 The motion was agreed.

5 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Scrutiny of Annual Report and Accounts 2021–22, and Estimate 2023–24: Consideration of evidence

5.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.

6 External Audit Services to Wales Audit Office

6.1 The Committee considered a paper from the Wales Audit Office on the procurement of external audit services to the Wales Audit Office. The Committee agreed to appoint the recommended supplier, RSM, for an initial four-year period commencing on 2 November 2022, including a right for the Wales Audit Office to extend the term annually up to a total duration of 7 years.

7 Financial Implications of the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill

7.1 The Committee considered the draft report and agreed it with minor changes.