

Mick Antoniw MS

Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

23 November 2022

Dear Mick

### The Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2023-24

To assist our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2023-24, anticipated to be published on 13 December 2022, we would be grateful to receive further detail around the Welsh Government's proposed spending in relation to justice and the accessibility of Welsh law.

You will recall that I wrote to you and the First Minister in similar terms last year ahead of the publication of the draft budget for 2022-23. We were grateful then for the information provided by the First Minister and oral evidence you provided once the draft budget had been published, and for the commitments you made in subsequent correspondence.

The Committee's clerking team has been in touch to arrange a suitable date in January for an evidence session with you on the draft budget. We would therefore be grateful to receive further detail within the areas set out in the Annex ahead of the session.

Yours sincerely,



Huw Irranca-Davies

Chair



## **Annex**

### **General**

- 1.** A breakdown of planned spending on justice-related actions within the 2023-24 draft budget and future indicative budgets, by Spending Programme Area (SPA), Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL), both revenue and capital, and, where relevant, year-on-year comparison to planned expenditure in 2022-23.
- 2.** A detailed narrative description of any planned spending on justice in the 2023-24 draft budget and any year-on-year changes identified.
- 3.** A summary of the work undertaken to improve the level of information provided on planned justice spending within the draft budget, in line with the recommendation made by the Committee last year and accepted by the Welsh Government, and detail on any changes made to the structure and presentation of the budget compared to previous years as a result.

### **Delivering Justice for Wales**

- 4.** A breakdown of planned spending on the Law Council of Wales in 2023-24, including detail on specific programmes and projects.
- 5.** An overview of planned spending in 2023-24 on the Delivering Justice in Wales work programme including:
  - the outcomes the Welsh Government are hoping to deliver as a result of this spending;
  - an explanation of what areas of work will be prioritised in 2023-24; and
  - details of how this planned spend compares to expenditure on the Delivering Justice in Wales work programme in the current 2022-23 financial year.
- 6.** Detail on planned spending on justice programmes in partnership with the Ministry of Justice in 2023-24.
- 7.** An overview of any resources in the 2023-24 draft budget to take forward the recommendations of the Law Commission's Devolved Tribunals in Wales report.

### **The Future of Welsh Law**

- 8.** A breakdown of any planned spending within the 2023-24 draft budget relating to the delivery of the Welsh Government's programme to improve the accessibility of the law including:

- funding for Canolfan Bedwyr at Bangor University to develop domain-specific machine translation for the law and legislation, and any funding for other future projects in relation to the use of machine learning or artificial intelligence in the field of legislation;
- resourcing the Welsh Government's plans to take on responsibility for the provision of up-to-date bilingual legislation on [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk).