

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru/ Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA
SeneddFinance@senedd.wales

17 January 2023

Dear Peredur,

Proposed Changes to the Budget Protocol

Thank you for your letter dated 9th December requesting a review of the current Budget Protocol.

I acknowledge the exceptional circumstances which have needed to be implemented over the previous years due to the uncertainty of UK Government fiscal events and the impact this has on our own preparation time. I am also aware this protocol was initially constructed with a view to a Spring UK Government Budget, and a two stage Welsh Government Budget due for publication in October.

Despite these circumstances, the current Budget Protocol has proven effective in providing us the flexibility needed in response. I am grateful for the constructive approach taken by the Finance Committee during the period and the introduction of important elements such as the Finance Committee debate prior to the summer recess.

I do recognise, however, that this has also not provided you with the certainty you require in order to scrutinise the Draft Budget. As we continue to face added UK Government indecision on when fiscal events will take place - such as the recently announced UK Spring Statement on 15th March, days after our Final Budget - it is worth considering how we can better adapt to these circumstances.

On this basis, I suggest we meet to discuss how best we approach the changes you have helpfully put forward. I would also suggest that your Clerk and supporting officials work with my officials over the next few months to further explore this work and areas where we may have common ground in terms of changes needed.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@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 will ask my officials to contact your clerk to make the arrangements, I am also copying this letter to the Chair of the Business Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
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