

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations
Committee**

Vaughan Gething MS
Minister for Economy
Dawn Bowden MS
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18 January 2024

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25

Dear Vaughan and Dawn

Thank you for appearing at the Committee's meeting on Wednesday 16 January 2024 to give evidence for our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2024-25. The Committee would like to follow-up on some issues discussed, and we would be grateful to receive the additional information outlined below.

Prioritising spending to safeguard the national collections

As a Committee, we acknowledge the exceptionally difficult decisions you have to make regarding next year's budget. We would, however, like to know why you aren't prioritising the need to address existing risks to the national collections over some of the other spending commitments you have made. We would ask what consideration you have given to pausing spending on other commitments, such as the Museum for North Wales, over protecting the precious items already in the national collection.

Remit letters and Culture Strategy

You told us that the long-awaited Culture Strategy will be published by the end of the year. We would like to know what changes you are making to the strategy in light of reduced budgets, as well as what has changed when it comes to your expectations of the arms-length bodies regarding the strategy.

Redundancies in arms-length bodies

We would like an outline of the discussions you've had with arms-length bodies funded by your department regarding any redundancies they may have to make. We would ask that this include what support, including financial, you are able to provide in the next financial year to assist them with this.

National Contemporary Art Gallery

We note that you confirmed that you will be taking a decision regarding the anchor site by the end of March 2024. Given the long lead-in-time this project has already experienced, we are concerned that any further delay in decision-making relating to the anchor site could be the worst of all worlds, as this could lead to stasis. We think its important that decisions are made as soon as possible and would welcome further assurances from you that there won't be any delay in the timetable.

Entrance fees to attractions currently free

We would like an outline of any discussions you have had relating to introducing entrance fees to attractions that are currently free of charge. We would ask that this include details of any models you have used to inform such discussions (that is, learning from other models or examples elsewhere, and so on).

Due to the curtailed scrutiny period for the Draft Budget, we would request a response by no later than 26 January 2024.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS

Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.