

Mick Antoniw MS

Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

17 January 2024

Dear Mick,

The Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2024-25

At our meeting on 15 January 2024 we considered the Welsh Government's draft budget proposals for 2024-25, and evidence submitted to the Finance Committee in respect of the draft budget.

Further to my Committee's request for information within my letter of 10 October 2023, I would be grateful if you could also provide information in respect of the matters enclosed in the Annex.

As you will be aware, the latest date for Senedd committees to report on the draft budget proposals is 5 February 2024. In order for my Committee to report by this date, I would be grateful to receive a single response to my letter of October and to this letter by 12:00 on 23 January 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Huw Irranca-Davies

Chair



Annex

Justice-related spend

- What impact have price increases had on proposals for justice-related spending for the 2024-25 budget and how will these be managed.
- What are the practical implications of budgetary pressures on the Delivering Justice in Wales programme; is delivery of the programme being scaled back and are outcomes and objectives being reassessed in the current financial context.
- What engagement took place with voluntary organisations and stakeholders working in the criminal justice system to inform justice related spending proposals for 2024-25.
- If any changes have been made to planned spending for 2024-25 in response to the challenges related to prison capacity.
- Information on how Draft Budget allocations on justice will contribute to the reduction of inequality.
- Information on how Draft Budget allocations related to justice will support actions to reduce imprisonment rates in Wales, particularly amongst people with protected characteristics.
- Information about how planned spend on justice in 2024-25 will fulfil the requirements of the Welsh Government's socio-economic duty.
- Information about preventative action that will be funded by the proposed allocations on justice-related spending in 2024-25.
- Information about the degree to which preparatory work for the devolution of justice will continue in light of budgetary pressures.

Accessibility of the law

- Information on planned spend in 2024-25 on the delivery of the Welsh Government's programme to improve the accessibility of Welsh law including the proposed changes to the programme announced in the annual report on the programme for 2022-23.
- Information on planned spending in this area to support the Welsh Government's ambition to increase provision of accessible bi-lingual legislation.

Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales

- Information on what actions and outcomes the funding for 2024-25 on the Constitutional Commission will be used to deliver.