

Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister

Date: 18 November 2020

Dear First Minister,

We recently [wrote](#) to Jeremy Miles MS, the Counsel General and Minister for European Transition, inviting him to attend Finance Committee in relation to the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2021-22. Given the Counsel General's role in coordinating Wales' recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and in coordinating the work for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, the Committee feels that he would be able to provide valuable evidence to assist in our draft budget scrutiny work.

A Welsh Government official responded that this is now outside of the Counsel General's portfolio given that he is no longer accountable for COVID recovery work, which has moved to portfolio Ministers to deliver. This is also the case for EU transition work as the individual spending elements sit primarily in portfolio Ministers' budgets.

During [questions](#) to the Counsel General in Plenary on 11 November 2020, the Counsel General confirmed that his responsibilities in relation to COVID recovery "have concluded with the publication of the action plan at the beginning of October".

As a Committee, we are unclear which Minister is directly accountable for COVID recovery work. We believe this work is of vital importance and are surprised that responsibility for ensuring the action plan is delivered is not the responsibility of a specific Minister.

We would welcome an update on your intentions as to how the COVID recovery plan will be factored into the 2021-22 draft budget and which Minister will have over-arching responsibility for ensuring the plan's success.



Yours sincerely,





Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair



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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

