

Vaughan Gething MS

Minister for Health and Social Services

Julie Morgan MS

Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

18 November 2020

Dear Ministers

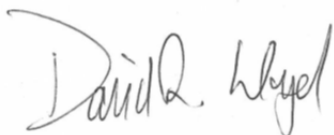
Welsh Government Draft Budget 2021-22

In line with our usual practice, I am writing in advance of the publication of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2021-22 to request written information to inform the Committee's scrutiny.

We note the Welsh Government's intention to publish the Draft Budget on 21 December 2020, and we would like to hold an oral evidence session with you both early in the New Year. The Clerk will liaise with your offices about dates.

To assist with our preparations, I would be grateful to receive the detailed information outlined in the Annexe to this letter, along with any other information that you wish to provide, by Tuesday 22 December.

Yours sincerely



Dr Dai Lloyd MS

Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee



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Annexe 1

Request for information from the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services from the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to inform scrutiny of draft budget 2021-22

Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations

- A breakdown of the 2021-22 Health and Social Services MEG allocations by Spending Programme Area, Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL);
- Indicative 2021-22 Health and Social Services MEG allocations;
- Commentary on each of the Actions within the Health and Social Services MEG, including an analysis and explanation of changes between the Draft Budget 2021-22 and the Second Supplementary Budget 2020-21 (October 2020);
- It would be of assistance if the analysis could highlight what, if any, changes are additional resources specifically for the response to COVID in 2020-21 (consequential and guaranteed funding from the UK Government).

In addition to the four usual themes of value for money, prioritisation, preventative spending and affordability, the Committee would like to receive information on the following (where not already covered in the commentary on each Action):

Local health boards' financial performance

An update on the overall financial performance of health boards. This should include:

- Those that have continued to fail to meet their financial duties;
- Those that have been in receipt of additional end of year and in-year financial support;
- Details of how the Welsh Government is supporting and working with those health boards to both address short-term challenges and improve their underlying position.

Future delivery of health care

- Details of how Welsh Government is supporting the delivery of more routine care, and addressing the backlog of treatment which is a consequence of the pandemic.

Well-being of future generations

Evidence of how the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and five ways of working have influenced the budget allocations for health and social care. The Committee is particularly interested in receiving details of how, going forward, the budget will:

- Prioritise prevention/early intervention in health and social care;
- Support sustainable, longer term funding of social care services;
- Promote integration of health and social care services;
- Ensure a sustainable health and social care workforce;
- Reduce and control spend on agency staff;
- Reduce health inequalities, and ensure fair access to health and care services in rural areas.



The impact of COVID-19 on allocations

Details of how the pandemic has influenced allocations to budget lines within the Health and Social Services MEG, including examples of any changes made to allocations within the Draft Budget from previous years as a result of COVID-19. Specifically;

- What assumptions have been used for the allocations in respect of the pandemic?
- What allocations have been made to support additional service capacity to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, including primary, community, and hospital services, social care, public health, and Test Trace Protect;
- What allocations have been made to support the potential roll-out of any COVID-19 vaccine programmes;
- What allocations have been made to ensure the maintenance of an adequate and appropriate supply of PPE;
- Specific detail on the spending allocations within the Draft Budget for any additional staff resource

Transformation

Further information about:

- How the Welsh Government intends to support service transformation in the longer term (i.e. beyond the life of the current Transformation Fund), to ensure progress on the transformation agenda can be sustained, and that there is a focus on rolling out the learning from successful pilots;
- How this budget will support the development of a 'whole system approach', with greater integration of health and social care, as described in *A Healthier Wales*;
- Any other specific areas of funding targeted at support for service change or development;
- How the Welsh Government, in setting its budget, will balance the need to meet existing service pressures with the need to transform services and develop new models of care.

Primary care

- The budget allocated for primary care services, and how this compares to amounts allocated in the last three years. To what extent is this achieving the policy aim of shifting care from hospitals to primary care/community settings?

Social care

The planned allocation for social care, including:

- Any additional funding identified for 2021-22, and details of the targeting – where appropriate - for such funding;
- Support for ensuring the ongoing viability and stability of social care services, including residential and domiciliary care;
- Support for carers.



ICT

- An up to date assessment of the costs of delivering the Welsh Government's vision for digital and data, as described in *A Healthier Wales*, and including increased support for digital and virtual care.

Withdrawal from the European Union

- Information about budget allocations within your portfolio as a result of the UK's exit from the EU.

