

Ken Skates AM  
Minister for Economy and Transport  
Welsh Government

13 August 2019

Dear Ken

## Draft Budget scrutiny 2020-21

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee has started its preparations for scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft Budget for 2020-21.

We appreciate that the timetable for the draft budget is currently uncertain. However, we thought it would be helpful to inform you that we will invite you in due course to attend a scrutiny session on the draft budget. I hope we can agree a date for your attendance when more information about the timetable is known.

To assist the Committee in our preparations, I would be grateful if you would provide information in relation to the matters set out in this letter. Of course, you should not feel limited by our request and are welcome to address any other issues you believe will assist the Committee in its work.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information in advance of the scrutiny session:

### Programme for Government / Prosperity for All

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- An explanation of how the budget allocations within your portfolio align to Programme for Government and Prosperity for All commitments and priorities.
- An explanation of how the setting of Decarbonisation as the sixth Prosperity for All priority has influenced this year's budget setting process.



- Examples of budget allocations that will contribute to decarbonisation.
- Examples of how you have responded to the Welsh Government's declaration of a "Climate Emergency" and how that has influenced your budget allocations.

### Preventative Spend

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- Details of the proportion of portfolio budget allocated to preventative spending measures and how this has increased compared to last year's budget; and
- Details of which specific policies or programmes in the portfolio are intended to be preventative.

### Evidence-based policy making

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- An explanation of how you have used evidence in prioritising your draft budget allocations and how you will monitor and evaluate programmes to ensure they provide value for money and inform future budget setting processes.
- Details of how the development of the draft budget has been informed and influenced as a result of consultation with stakeholders.

### Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

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- Examples of how the Act has informed decisions on specific budget allocations.
- Details of how the impact assessment process has influenced the development of the draft budget, including examples of where a decision has been assessed against the Welsh Government's well-being objectives.

### Equality, Welsh language and children's rights assessment

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- Details of how you have considered the impact of the draft budget on groups with protected characteristics and the Welsh language, including details of any relevant impact assessments.



- Details of how children’s rights have been considered in the budget decisions for the portfolio.

## Legislation

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I would be grateful if you could provide information about the budget allocations for the implementation of existing and planned primary and subordinate legislation.

## Additional areas of Committee interest

The Committee would also be grateful if you could provide details of how allocations in the draft budget will address the following matters:

- The development of an electric vehicle charging point network;
- Improving air quality;
- Highway investment, including budget allocations for the “Green Corridors on the Welsh Trunk Road Network” initiative.

In addition, the Committee would welcome:

- An update on transport proposals that have been appraised using WeITAG 2017 and your views on its impact and outcomes;
- What environmental issues have the South East Wales Transport Commission been asked to take into account in the course of its work and what steps have been taken to ensure its recommendations support the Welsh Government’s decarbonisation priority?
- Your assessment, including specific examples, of the impact of the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales on decarbonisation and green and blue growth, given that these have been the Commission’s initial focus;
- An update on the uptake of funding under the Economy Futures Fund (EFF) Decarbonisation Call to Action; and



- Your assessment of the contribution Transport for Wales is making to emissions reductions and decarbonisation, given that the Welsh Government has said that the Company's core objectives should be aligned with the Welsh Government's priorities, one of which is to "build a sustainable Wales".

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

**Mike Hedges AM**  
Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

