

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

Jayne Bryant MS
Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

17 February 2022

Dear Jenny and Jayne,

Thank you for writing to me setting out the concerns raised by the Children's Commissioner in respect of her budget settlement for the 2022-23 financial year.

I would like to offer my assurance that the budget estimate was not rejected. I considered the budget estimate as part of the draft budget settlement and awarded an indicative 2022-23 grant allocation of £1,580,000. I can also assure you that as a government, we are committed to assessing and understanding the impacts of our spending decisions, through a Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment of the draft budget, of which children's rights is a part.

In the tight settlement for 2022-23, Programme for Government (PfG) commitments were prioritised and I agreed to maintain a flat line budget for the Children's Commissioner for Wales (CCfW) and all other Commissioners within my portfolio. However, I recognised the way the Children's Commissioner had systemically reduced her reserves alongside maintaining high performance.

My officials have been in discussion with CCfW's office since the original announcement. I am pleased to inform you that I wrote to the Children's Commissioner on 26 January confirming that an additional £115k has been allocated for the 2022-23 financial year. The Office of the Children's Commissioner will therefore receive a revenue budget of £1,695,000 in 2022-23.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

This funding will be reviewed ahead of budget allocations being agreed for years two (2023-24) and three (2024-25). This will provide an opportunity for the incoming CCfW, Rocio Cifuentes, who begins her term in April 2022, to consider her requirements for future years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter "J".

Jane Hutt AS/MS

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