



Ein cyf/Our ref: RE/688/2022

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru

25 March 2022

Dear Peredur,

As part of the scrutiny of the 2022-23 Draft Budget I welcomed the interest of the Committee in the work of the reformed Budget Improvement Impact Advisory Group (BIIAG) and how the committee could be more closely involved.

As I have previously outlined the new group is being established to play a key role in supporting our wider work on reforming budget and process tax processes through delivery of the Budget Improvement Plan. The group will act as a collaboration between those officials leading Welsh Government budget improvement work, representative stakeholders from across Wales and historically underrepresented groups, and expert policy-makers from across the Trade Union and wider Public Sector, to ensure those impacted by budget decisions are involved in the improvement of those processes.

In line with my commitment to providing further information in advance of the group meeting formally, please find attached the group's Terms of Reference and work plan.

The first meeting of the group is on the afternoon of the 30th of March, from 1pm to 3pm. While Ministers will not routinely attend the event, the Minister for Social Justice and myself will be attending the beginning of the inaugural meeting to demonstrate our support and thank attendees for their time and effort. I wish to extend the same invite to you as the Chair of the Finance Committee, providing an opportunity for you to meet the group at its inception.

In terms of the committee's involvement this is a matter I asked my officials to engage with your officials to explore the issue further. As a result, I wish to propose the following to enable us to work together in our mutual interest to improve the Welsh budget processes.

To enable the committee to understand and explore in more detail the actions within Budget Improvement Plan and to influence the activity we are undertaking in advance of the 2023-24 Draft Budget I would be happy to offer a technical briefing with officials prior to June 2022.

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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.

To ensure the committee has more regular updates on BIIAG, I have instructed my officials to meet regularly and routinely with the clerks of the Finance Committee. Alongside providing updates on the Budget Improvement Plan, this will provide an opportunity to review and explore collective separate improvements to the Welsh Budget processes.

As we begin to plan our respective engagement activity for 2022, I would also be happy to explore how we can undertake collective engagement to improve public understanding and engagement with the Welsh Budget process. In particular, I am interested in how we can engage with children and young people.

It is my hope this will help align our mutual understanding of ongoing activity and facilitate the best possible engagement with the Finance Committee's engagement with our ongoing work and reduce any duplication of efforts and best achieve our shared goals. I would also be happy to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government