

## Specification for the post of Expert Adviser to the Finance Committee

The [Finance Committee](#) is seeking to appoint Expert Advisers for future inquiries which could include budgets, forecasting and taxation, for the remainder of the fifth Assembly.

The first inquiry would involve providing expert, technical advice to the Committee in relation to scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2020-21.

The Expert Adviser role includes:

- assisting in the scoping and framing of remits for inquiries;
- preparing background briefing papers for committee in their area of expertise;
- assisting in the selection of appropriate witnesses and possible lines of questioning for oral evidence sessions;
- working with the Committee team (which includes the clerk, researchers and lawyers) for the duration of the inquiry to prepare for (and, where necessary, attend) oral evidence sessions;
- identifying emerging themes and key issues through the scrutiny process, particularly in advance of any concluding scrutiny session with the relevant Minister. This is key to ensuring the Committee holds the Welsh Government to account on the main issues arising from its work;
- contributing to the production of an authoritative report which includes clear and precise conclusions and recommendations, to ensure the Committee's work is influential and achieves a positive outcome. The input of an adviser at this stage can help ensure that the report's content is technically robust and stands up to the scrutiny of external experts, including Ministers and Government officials;

- provide such advice as the Committee, the Chair and the Clerking team may require (the clerking team consists of clerks, lawyers and researchers).

### **Person Specification**

Skills/Abilities – The adviser must have proven analytical skills, excellent communication skills, both oral and written, and an ability to explain technical or complex issues are essential.

Experience – The adviser may have experience of public/private sector finance and working with senior executives, politicians and/or committees.

Knowledge – The adviser should have knowledge of the work, powers and procedures of the Assembly, and be able to demonstrate a good understanding of the role and remit of the Finance Committee.

Expertise – A knowledge of matters relating to budgeting, forecasting, public finances, tax policy or the UK tax system and of those taxes devolved to Wales.

Candidates are invited to include a covering letter setting out how they meet the criteria in the **Person Specification** and a copy of their CV, to reach the Committee Clerk by **9 September 2019**. Please email:

[SeneddFinance@Assembly.Wales](mailto:SeneddFinance@Assembly.Wales)

For further information on the position, please contact the Committee Clerks Bethan Davies (0300 200 6372) or Leanne Hatcher (0300 200 6343).

The appointment will be paid at the Assembly's Expert Adviser rate of 15 days at £200 per day, or £3,000 in total.

## **Current position for Expert Adviser in relation to scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2020–21, with specific expertise in taxation**

The Finance Committee is seeking to appoint an Expert Adviser to assist in scrutinising the Welsh Government's draft budget 2020–21. In particular to enhance the Committee's scrutiny of **tax, forecasting and strategic budgeting**. The Committee takes a strategic, overarching perspective of the Welsh Government's budget proposals. We also work with the other Assembly Committees to ensure that proposals for specific departments, or ministerial portfolios are considered in detail.

In April 2018, the new Welsh Taxes, landfill disposal tax and land transaction tax came into operation and this financial year has seen the partial devolution of income tax with Welsh taxpayers seeing the new Welsh tax codes on their payslips for the first time. These new developments have implications for the Welsh Government's budget and the Finance Committee's scrutiny of the budget.

### **Timescale**

The Welsh Government's draft Budget is usually published in October. However, given the UK Government's intention to hold a Comprehensive Spending Review this year, which will conclude alongside the UK Budget, the Welsh Government announced it is planning to publish the outline and detailed draft Budgets together on 10 December 2019, and the final Budget on 3 March 2020. However, if following the appointment of a new Prime Minister, there is an earlier emergency budget confirming funding available to the Welsh Government, these dates could be subject to revision. Therefore, the Finance Committee is likely to start its inquiry around November/December 2019. The Committee has already issued its consultation on the draft budget and details are available [here](#).