

Rebecca Evans AM
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

20 September 2019

Dear Minister,

Budget timetable 2020–21

Thank you for your letter of 13 September 2019, consulting the Finance Committee on your request to revise the Welsh Government’s draft budget timetable 2020–21.

The Finance Committee discussed your request at our meeting on 19 September 2019. We support your request to bring forward publication of the budget earlier than previously agreed.

Notwithstanding this, we are disappointed that the revised Committee’s reporting deadline of 14 January 2020, is not more favourable in terms of the number of sitting weeks available for scrutiny. However, we appreciate the constraints you are under, given the unprecedented circumstances we currently face with Brexit and the UK Government yet to announce its Autumn budget.

We share the Welsh Government’s concerns regarding the UK Government’s ability to legislate to authorise the funding arrangements announced in the UK Spending Round 2019. We would welcome further information from you as to what contingencies you have in place should the UK Government not be in a position to formally authorise the allocation of funds to the Welsh Government.

We also note from your letter that the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has recently informed the UK Parliament’s Treasury Committee that it is yet to be engaged to prepare updated forecasts for an Autumn Budget. This is a concern to the Finance Committee and I would like to give you an early indication that as part



of our Budget scrutiny we will be very keen to explore forecasting issues further, with yourself, the OBR and the Welsh Treasury. I am copying this letter to the Business Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llyr', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Llyr Gruffydd AM
Chair of the Finance Committee

