

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Elin Jones AM
Presiding Officer
Chair of Business Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

SeneddBusiness@Assembly.wales

07 November 2019

Dear Elin,

I am writing in relation to our discussion earlier today about the timing of the Welsh Government's budget for 2020-21.

On 13 September I wrote seeking your views on the proposal to bring forward and publish the draft Budget on 19 November and the final Budget on 4 February 2020. Business Committee subsequently agreed the changes to the timetable on 24 September.

Since then, the UK general election has been called and we are now in the pre-election period. Given these exceptional circumstances, and subject to your views, I propose to delay publication of the Welsh Government's budget until after the UK general election. However, in order to provide certainty to our delivery partners and stakeholders at the earliest opportunity following the UK general election, the proposal is to publish the draft budget on 16 December. The final Budget will then be published on 25 February 2020, with the debate on the final Budget in plenary on 3 March.

While I appreciate this would mean publishing the draft Budget in recess, Ministers would be as flexible as possible that week to attend Committee scrutiny sessions should this be desired. I would then make a statement in plenary on the draft Budget proposals as soon as we return after the Christmas recess, on 7 January.

I am aware that these arrangements will impact on the period for scrutiny. Standing Order 20.5 provides, in 'normal' circumstances, for the Finance Committee to be given eight weeks to report on the outline budget proposals and five weeks for committees to consider the detailed Budget proposals. To maintain as far as possible this period of scrutiny, the revised timetable I have set out would enable seven weeks for scrutiny of the draft Budget, comprising four sitting weeks and three non-sitting weeks.

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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.

I would like to make a Written Statement to Members as soon as possible to update them on plans for the draft Budget. I am grateful for the support you have already provided and I hope these arrangements are acceptable given the exceptional circumstances we are facing as a result of external factors beyond our control.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
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Minister for Finance and Trefnydd