

EPC(2) 14-06(p2) Annex 2

**Pwyllgor yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad
Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee**

Sue Essex AM
Finance Minister
Welsh Assembly Government

20 June 2005

Dear Sue,

BUDGET PLANNING ROUND 2006

Following consideration of 2007-08 budget priorities for the Environment, Planning and Countryside Main Expenditure Group (MEG) at the Committee's meeting on 15 June, I am writing to convey the Committee's views.

The Committee requested that the Minister prioritise expenditure on those policies and programmes which will mitigate the effects of climate change. Also, in light of Committee's previous work on landfill and recycling targets and its continued interest in this area, the Committee trusts that the Minister will continue to prioritise expenditure on waste management.

Much of the Committee's discussion focussed on the Tir Cymru budget line and a need for a breakdown of expenditure on its component parts - Tir Mynydd, Tir Gofal and Tir Cynnal. Given the Minister's proposed cut in the Tir Mynydd budget over the next two years, the Committee were interested to know on what other schemes the savings might be spent. Following extensive discussion, the Committee agreed by a majority to ask the Minister to prioritise the Tir Mynydd budget and to maintain expenditure at current levels. In doing so, it expressed its support for the principle of socio-economic support for upland areas.

I am, however, able to report that, other than the priorities stated above, the Committee was reasonably content with the balance of the budget, including the support for cross-cutting issues.

Copies of this letter will go to Chairs of other Subject Committees for information and to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside.

Yours sincerely,

**Glyn Davies AM
Committee Chair**