

Agenda – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

Video Conference via Zoom

Meeting date: 3 March 2021

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Bethan Davies

Committee Clerk

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In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on www.senedd.tv

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

2 Paper(s) to note

(09.30)

(Pages 1 – 4)

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2021

2.1 PTN 1 – Letter from the Minister for Education regarding an updated Explanatory Memorandum for the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill: Revised response to the Finance Committee's Stage 1 report recommendations – 23 Feb 2021

(Pages 5 – 7)

3 Senedd Commission – Approach to project planning: Evidence session

(09:30–10:15)

(Pages 8 – 16)

Suzy Davies MS, Commissioner for Budget and Governance

Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd

Nia Morgan, Director of Finance



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

Supporting papers:

Research brief

- 4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting**

(10.15)

- 5 Senedd Commission – Approach to project planning:**

Consideration of evidence

(10.15–10.30)

- 6 Welsh Government Third Supplementary Budget 2020–21:**

Consideration of draft report

(10.30–11.00)

Supporting papers:

FIN(5)–07–21 P1 – Draft report

Concise Minutes – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

Video Conference via Zoom

Meeting date: Wednesday, 24 February
2021

Meeting time: 09.30 – 11.30

This meeting can be viewed
on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/11121>

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Llyr Gruffydd MS (Chair) Alun Davies MS Siân Gwenllïan MS Mike Hedges MS Mark Isherwood MS Rhianon Passmore MS Mark Reckless MS
Witnesses:	Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Trefnydd Andrew Jeffreys, Welsh Government Gawain Evans, Welsh Government Matthew Denham-Jones, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Bethan Davies (Clerk) Leanne Hatcher (Second Clerk) Georgina Owen (Second Clerk) Mike Lewis (Deputy Clerk) Martin Jennings (Researcher)



1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the virtual meeting of the Finance Committee.
- 1.2 The Chair noted that Nick Ramsay MS has left the Committee and thanked him for his contribution to the Committee's work.
- 1.3 The Chair welcomed Mark Isherwood MS as a new member of the Committee.

2 Paper(s) to note

- 2.1 The papers were noted.

2.1 PTN 1 – Annual Scrutiny of the Wales Audit Office: Audit Wales' response to the Committee's recommendations – 22 January 2021

2.2 PTN 2 – Letter from Audit Wales – Wales Audit Office Supplementary Estimate 2020–21 – 27 January 2021

2.3 PTN 3 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd: Information on financial transactions capital and Wales Barnett formula consequentials – 21 January 2021

2.4 PTN 4 – Welsh Government's Second supplementary budget – Welsh Government response – 19 January 2021

2.5 PTN 5 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd – Land Transaction Tax (LTT) non-residential rates and thresholds – 2 February 2021

2.6 PTN 6 – Letter from the Chair of External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee to the Secretary of State for Wales: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – 2 February 2021

2.7 PTN 7 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd: Modelling work for free school meals – 9 February 2021

2.8 PTN 8 – Letter from Hafal: Scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2021–22 – 17 February 2021

3 Welsh Government Third Supplementary Budget 2020–21

- 3.1 The Committee took evidence from Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Trefnydd; Andrew Jeffreys, Director, Welsh Treasury; Gawain Evans, Director of Finance;

and Matthew Denham-Jones, Deputy Director, Financial Controls on the Welsh Government Third Supplementary Budget 2020-21.

3.2 The Minister agreed to provide:

- Further detail via the Minister for Health and Social Services on the work being undertaken to improve information sharing between primary and secondary health care services.
- Further information via the Minister for Housing and Local Government on the Local Authority Hardship Fund, specifically the formula relating to local authority lost savings as a result of the pandemic.
- Further detail on the funding that has been allocated to support business during the pandemic.

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting

4.1 The motion was agreed.

5 Welsh Government Third Supplementary Budget 2020-21: Consideration of evidence

5.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.

6 Consideration of Audit Wales Fee Scheme 2021-22

6.1 The Committee approved the Audit Wales Fee Scheme 2021-22, under Standing Orders 18.10(x) in accordance with section 24(7) of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013.

7 Consideration of Forward Work Programme paper

7.1 The Committee considered its forward work programme.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair of the Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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23 February 2021

Dear Llyr,

Today I laid an updated version of the Explanatory Memorandum for the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill. In response to the recommendations made by the Finance Committee in the end of stage 1 report the revisions to the RIA are set out below.

Accept or Accept in Part Finance Committee Recommendations:

The Welsh Government identifies how it will define and evaluate the success of the new Curriculum and outlines this in a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment

Chapter 11 of the RIA has been updated to explain how success definitions and indicators will be developed as part of the evaluation scoping study in 2021. Some examples, taken from the Curriculum Implementation Plan, and an indicative timeline have also been included.

The Welsh Government undertakes further work to assess the costs to schools and engages with schools other than Innovation Schools regarding the costs included in the RIA. Information gathered should be represented in a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment.

Further work to estimate costs has not been possible because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The RIA has been updated with details of research and engagement with a wide range of schools that is planned for 2021, including a readiness assessment and co-construction work with schools via a National Network. This information

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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.

will be used to update the cost estimates, which will be shared with the Senedd later in 2021.

The Welsh Government undertakes further work to define and estimate the costs for 'Education Other Than At School' and assessment arrangements costs in consultation with stakeholders. This information should be provided in a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment

As stated above, further work to estimate costs has not been possible because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the meantime, the RIA has been updated with details of research and engagement with a wide range of schools and settings that is planned for 2021, including a readiness assessment and co-construction work with schools and settings via a National Network. This information will be used to update the cost estimates, which will be shared with the Senedd later in 2021.

The Welsh Government details all sunk costs relating to the Bill in the same part of a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment.

All sunk costs are located in the same part of the updated RIA.

The Welsh Government should provide the detail on its discussions with stakeholders around the potential costs to the post-16 education system and publish any details of the financial implications.

The RIA has been updated with this information, which reflects the information set out in my letter to you of 20 November 2020 (attached at **Annex A** for reference).

The Welsh Government provides details of how it will review the costs provided by stakeholders (and advise the Senedd of those costs) and the timescales of implementation.

Following my letter to you of 20 November 2020, the RIA has been updated to reflect the feedback from stakeholders in the cost section.

Also, to be aware, the original RIA set out the administrative cost to Welsh Government over the ten-year appraisal period (2021-22 to 2030-31) of approximately £175m. Between 2021-22 and 2025-26, the cost per annum will be £25m - £26m before falling to approximately £10m per annum from 2026-27 onwards.

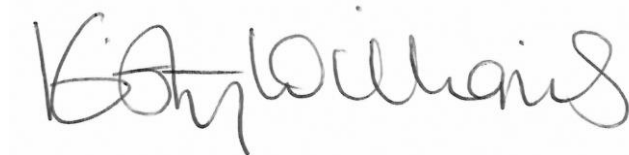
The revised RIA includes a revised profiling of the Qualifications Wales cost estimated as advised by Qualification Wales due to spend/activity in the current financial year being lower than anticipated when the original RIA was written. The result of this is that more of the Qualification Wales costs have been pushed into the 2021-22 to 2030-21 appraisal period. The £1.350m for 2021-22 is in line with the funding allocated to Qualifications Wales for curriculum reform.

There is a reduction in the estimated additional cost for providing Welsh language/bilingual resources – an estimate of £3.17m per annum was included in the original RIA but this has been revised down to £1m in 2021-22 and £2m in each of the remaining years in the appraisal period.

In terms of the headline cost figures in the RIA, the net effect of these changes has been to reduce the estimated cost of the Bill. The revised RIA now sets out the administrative cost to Welsh Government over the ten-year appraisal period (2021-22 to 2030-31) to be approximately £163m. In 2021-22 the estimated cost is revised to £23.4m (was £25.6m), increasing to £24m between 2022-23 to 2025-26 (was £25-26m), before falling to approximately £9m per annum was £10m) from 2026-27 onwards.

This letter has been copied to the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee and the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kirsty Williams'.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Agenda Item 3

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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