

Agenda – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Video Conference via Zoom	Bethan Davies
Meeting date: 10 March 2021	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 09.00	0300 200 6372
	SeneddFinance@senedd.wales

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
(09.00) (Pages 1 – 2)
Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2021.
 - 2.1 PTN 1 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd regarding an amended Supplementary Budget Motion – 2 March 2021
(Pages 3 – 33)
 - 2.2 PTN 2 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd regarding allocated funding to support business during the pandemic – 2 March 2021
(Pages 34 – 40)
 - 2.3 PTN 3 – Letter from the Scottish Parliament's Finance and Constitution Committee to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury: Scottish Government's Budget 2021–22 – 4 March 2021
(Pages 41 – 42)



2.4 PTN 4 – Joint letter from the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales; and the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury regarding Freeports in Wales – 4 February 2021

(Pages 43 – 44)

2.5 PTN 5 – Welsh Government Draft Budget 2021–22 – Welsh Government response to the Finance Committee's report – 5 March 2021

(Pages 45 – 64)

3 Finance Committee Legacy work: Evidence session

(09.00–10.20)

(Pages 65 – 82)

Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

Andrew Jeffreys, Director Treasury

Gawain Evans, Director of Finance

Debra Carter, Deputy Director, Local Government Strategic Finance

Marcella Maxwell, Deputy Director, Commercial Procurement and Group Strategy

Supporting papers:

Research brief

4 Tax statutory instrument: Evidence session

(10.20–10.30)

(Pages 83 – 86)

Supporting papers:

FIN(5)–08–21 P1 – Report

FIN(5)–08–21 P2 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd to the Llywydd – 3 March 2021

[SUB-LD14189 – The Land Transaction Tax \(Temporary Variation of Rates and Bands for Residential Property Transactions\) \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021](#)

[SUB-LD14189-EM – The Land Transaction Tax \(Temporary Variation of Rates and Bands for Residential Property Transactions\) \(Wales\) \(Amendment\)](#)

[Regulations 2021 – Explanatory Memorandum](#)

Break (10.30–11.00)

5 Secretary of State for Wales: Evidence session

(11.00–12.00)

(Pages 87 – 102)

Rt. Hon Simon Hart MP, Secretary of State for Wales

Geth Williams, Deputy Director of Constitution and Policy, Wales Office

Supporting papers:

Research brief

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting and the meeting on 17 March 2021

(12.00)

7 Secretary of State for Wales: Consideration of evidence

(12.00–12.10)

8 Finance Committee Legacy work: Consideration of evidence

(12.10–12.20)

9 Tax statutory instrument: Consideration of evidence

(12.20–12.25)

10 Draft Public Audit (Amendment) (Wales) Bill: Consideration of draft report

(12.25–12.50)

(Pages 103 – 176)

Supporting papers:

FIN(5)–08–21 P3 – Draft report on the Consideration of the consultation on the draft Public Audit (Amendment) (Wales) Bill

FIN(5)–08–21 P4 – Draft Public Audit (Amendment) (Wales) Bill

FIN(5)–08–21 P5 – Explanatory Notes

FIN(5)–08–21 P6 – Legal advice note

Concise Minutes – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

This meeting can be viewed

Video Conference via Zoom

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

Meeting date: Wednesday, 3 March 2021

<http://senedd.tv/en/11122>

Meeting time: 09.30 – 11.01

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:	Suzy Davies MS, Commissioner Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive & Clerk of the Senedd Nia Morgan, Director of Finance
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.

2 Paper(s) to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

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**

3 Senedd Commission – Approach to project planning: Evidence session

3.1 The Committee took evidence from Suzy Davies MS, Commissioner for Budget and Governance; Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd; and Nia Morgan, Director of Finance on the Senedd Commission's approach to project planning.

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 Senedd Commission – Approach to project planning: Consideration of evidence

5.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.

6 Welsh Government Third Supplementary Budget 2020–21: Consideration of draft report

6.1 The Committee agreed the draft report with minor changes.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/RE/0964/21

Llyr Gruffydd AM,
Chair Finance Committee,
Senedd Cymru,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99 1NA

2 March 2021

Dear Llyr,

It has come to my attention that there was an omission in the Supplementary Budget Motion laid on Tuesday, 16th February relating to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

As was considered and approved by the Committee at its meeting on 15th January, the Explanatory Memorandum provided by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales set out the amendment required to the description of its accruing resources within the budget motion to allow for the retention of a pension scheme surplus. Due to an oversight, this revision, together with the consequential amendments to the DEL and AME resource requirements of the Public Services Ombudsman Wales were omitted from the Supplementary Budget Motion.

The corrected Supplementary Budget Motion is attached with the revisions highlighted to Part 2 of Schedule 4 and Tables 2 and 3 of Schedule 6. This will be tabled today replacing the Supplementary Budget Motion from 16th February. As the changes reflect the Explanatory Memorandum approved by the Finance Committee, I trust this will not affect the publication of the Committee's report on the Third Supplementary Budget to allow the motion to be moved on 9th March as planned.

I apologise for this oversight and appreciate your help in resolving this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

Supplementary Budget Motion 2020-21

Laid Before Senedd Cymru by the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

March 2021

Supplementary Budget Motion**1. The Senedd is asked to agree the following:**

- This resolution for the year ending 31 March 2021 is made by Senedd Cymru (“the Senedd”) pursuant to Section 126 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 (“the Act”).
2. This Supplementary Budget Motion should be read alongside supporting budget documentation published on 16 February 2021.

Welsh Government**3. The Welsh Government is authorised-**

(a) to use resources (not including accruing resources) during the financial year ending 31 March 2021 for the services and purposes specified in Column 1 of Schedule 1, up to a maximum of the corresponding amounts specified in Column 2 of that Schedule;

(b) in addition, to retain income, within the categories of accruing resources specified in Column 1 of each Part of Schedule 2, during the financial year ending 31 March 2021, for use on the services and purposes specified in Column 2 of each Part of that Schedule, up to the limit specified for each Part of that Schedule; and

(c) to draw cash out of the Welsh Consolidated Fund for use on the services and purposes specified in Schedule 1, up to the net cash requirement limit specified in Schedule 5.

4. Despite paragraphs 2(a) and (b), the resources which may be used for the services and purposes specified in Column 1 of Schedule 1 (or, as the case may be, in Column 2 of each Part of Schedule 2), may exceed the amount specified in the corresponding entry in Column 2 of Schedule 1 (or, as the case may be, in each Part of Schedule 2) if-

(a) in the case of resources other than accruing resources, the first condition is met, or

(b) in the case of accruing resources, the second condition is met.

5. The first condition is that the total resources (other than accruing resources) used during the financial year ending 31 March 2021 for all services and purposes specified in Column 1 of Schedule 1 does not exceed the total of the sum of the amounts specified in Column 2 of that Schedule.

6. The second condition is that the total accruing resources used during the financial year ending 31 March 2021 for all services and purposes specified in Column 2 of Schedule 2 does not exceed the total of the sum of the amounts specified for each part of that Schedule.

7. Under Section 126A of Government of Wales Act 2006, a budget motion for a financial year may include information relating to resources expected to be used by any body that is a

designated body in relation to a relevant person. The resources of bodies designated under the Government of Wales Act 2006 (Budget Motions and Designated Bodies) Order 2018 (as amended) are included in this supplementary budget motion.

Senedd Commission

8. The Senedd Commission is authorised-

(a) to use resources (not including accruing resources) during the financial year ending 31 March 2021 for the services and purposes specified in Column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 3, up to a maximum of the corresponding amounts specified in Column 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 3;

(b) in addition, to retain income, within the categories of accruing resources specified in Column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 4, during the financial year ending 31 March 2021, for use on the services and purposes specified in the corresponding entries in Column 2 of Part 1 of that Schedule, up to the limit specified for Part 1 of that Schedule; and

(c) to draw cash out of the Welsh Consolidated Fund for use on the services and purposes specified in Column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 3, up to the net cash requirement limit specified in Schedule 5.

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

9. The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales is authorised –

(a) to use resources (not including accruing resources) during the financial year ending 31 March 2021 for the services and purposes specified in Column 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 3, up to a maximum of the corresponding amounts specified in Column 2 of Part 2 of Schedule 3;

(b) in addition, to retain income, within the categories of accruing resources specified in Column 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 4, during the financial year ending 31 March 2021, for use on the services and purposes specified in the corresponding entries in Column 2 of Part 2 of that Schedule, up to the limit specified for Part 2 of that Schedule; and

(c) to draw cash out of the Welsh Consolidated Fund for use on the services and purposes specified in Column 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 3, up to the net cash requirement limit specified in Schedule 5.

Wales Audit Office

10. The Wales Audit Office is authorised-

(a) to use resources (not including accruing resources) during the financial year ending 31 March 2021 for the services and purposes specified in Column 1 of Part

3 of Schedule 3, up to a maximum of the corresponding amounts specified in Column 2 of Part 3 of Schedule 3;

(b) in addition, to retain income, within the categories of accruing resources specified in Column 1 of Part 3 of Schedule 4, during the financial year ending 31 March 2021, for use on the services and purposes specified in the corresponding entries in Column 2 of Part 3 of that Schedule, up to the limit specified for Part 3 of that Schedule; and

(c) to draw cash out of the Welsh Consolidated Fund for use on the services and purposes specified in Column 1 of Part 3 of Schedule 3, up to the net cash requirement limit specified in Schedule 5.

Specification of Categories of Accruing Resources

11. The categories of accruing resources listed in Column 1 of each Part of Schedule 2, and in Column 1 of each part of Schedule 4, are specified categories for the purposes of section 120(2)(a) of the Act.”

Summary of Resource and Capital Requirements
Welsh Ministers

Ambit	Resources (£000)	Accruing Resources (£000)
Health and Social Services	10,466,690	68,636
Housing and Local Government	5,945,017	29,537
Economy and Transport	4,195,263	84,840
Education	3,574,858	274,511
Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language	413,580	4,426
Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs	639,838	106,379
Central Services and Administration	453,502	411,131
Total Resources Requested and Accrued Income relating to Welsh Ministers	25,688,748	979,460

Direct Funded Bodies

Ambit	Resources (£000)	Accruing Resources (£000)
Senedd Commission	60,625	220
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales	5,270	991
Wales Audit Office	8,223	14,270
Total Resources and Accrued Income for Direct Funded Bodies	74,118	15,481

Schedule 1 – Ambits for expenditure incurred by Welsh Ministers

Ambits for expenditure incurred by Welsh Ministers (excluding accruing resources)	
<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Services and purposes</i>	<i>Amount £000</i>
<p>Health and Social Services</p> <p>For use by Welsh Ministers to spend on Health and Social Services including promoting, improving or supporting economic, social or environmental well-being.</p> <p>Delivery of core and targeted NHS services including impairments & provisions; supporting education & training of the NHS workforce, and hospices; sponsorship of public health bodies, public health programmes; effective health emergency preparedness arrangements; partnership & integration, sustainable social services, Social Care Wales; funding for the Older People Commissioner; funding for the Children’s Commissioner and CAFCASS; expenditure on supporting children and any related expenditure and non-fiscal resource use.</p>	10,466,690

Ambits for expenditure incurred by Welsh Ministers (excluding accruing resources)	
<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Services and purposes</i>	<i>Amount £000</i>
<p>Housing and Local Government</p> <p>For use by Welsh Ministers to spend on housing, local government and communities including promoting, improving or supporting economic, social or environmental well-being.</p> <p>Funding to support local government including general capital funding and valuation services; building local democracy; supporting collaboration, reform and improvement. Funding for planning and regulation and housing to Increase the Supply and Choice of Affordable Housing and Market Housing; to support people to live independently in their homes through the Supporting People, Independent Living and Integrated Care Fund and to prevent homelessness. Funding to support communities including Regeneration; Financial Inclusion and Digital Inclusion; and Fire and Rescue Services and Resilience. Funding Academi Wales, Care Inspectorate Wales, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales and Estyn. Also includes any related expenditure and non-fiscal resource use.</p>	5,945,017

Ambits for expenditure incurred by Welsh Ministers (excluding accruing resources)	
<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Services and purposes</i>	<i>Amount £000</i>
<p>Economy and Transport</p> <p>For use by Welsh Ministers on Economy and Transport including promoting and supporting economic, social or environmental well-being for businesses, individuals, communities and places in Wales.</p> <p>Expenditure on sectors and regional business development; entrepreneurship & business information; export, trade and inward investment; provision of support to improve and progress digital infrastructure; delivering ICT and property related infrastructure; corporate & strategy programmes; Development Bank of Wales; motorway & trunk road operations; improving & maintaining the trunk road network; road, rail, air and sea services and investment; sustainable travel; improving road safety; work based learning; delivering support for skills; skills policy; employment & skills; educational and careers choice and any related expenditure and non-fiscal resource use that provides broader economic benefit to Wales.</p>	<p>4,195,263</p>

Ambits for expenditure incurred by Welsh Ministers (excluding accruing resources)	
<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Services and purposes</i>	<i>Amount £000</i>
<p>Education</p> <p>For use by Welsh Ministers to spend on Education including promoting, improving or supporting economic, social or environmental well-being.</p> <p>Expenditure on education and training standards including literacy and numeracy, curriculum, teaching & leadership, qualifications, post-16 education, higher education, pupil development grant, ICT & information management systems and estate & IT provision; youth engagement & employment; well-being of children & young people; post-16 learner support; pupil engagement; Welsh medium and bilingual education; delivery support; innovation; science; life sciences; and any related expenditure and non-fiscal resource use.</p>	3,574,858

Ambits for expenditure incurred by Welsh Ministers (excluding accruing resources)	
<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Services and purposes</i>	<i>Amount £000</i>
<p>Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language</p> <p>For use by Welsh Ministers on Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language including promoting and supporting economic, social or environmental well-being for businesses, individuals, communities and places in Wales.</p> <p>Expenditure on delivery of mental health policies & legislation and delivery of the substance misuse strategy implementation plan; the Food Standards Agency; public health programmes; developing and implementing research and development for patient and public benefit; social care and support, tourism and Events Wales to promote Wales; supporting culture and the arts via the Arts Council of Wales, the National Museum of Wales, the National Library of Wales; Creative Wales and other; support for local culture and sport; media and publishing via the Books Council of Wales; supporting the historic and natural environment via Cadw, the National Botanic Gardens and the Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales; promoting sport and physical activity via Sports Wales and others; supporting the Welsh Language and the Welsh Language Commissioner; and any related expenditure and non-fiscal resource use that provides broader economic, social and environmental benefit to Wales.</p>	413,580

Ambits for expenditure incurred by Welsh Ministers (excluding accruing resources)	
<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Services and purposes</i>	<i>Amount £000</i>
<p>Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs</p> <p>For use by Welsh Ministers on Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, including promoting, improving or supporting economic, social or environmental well-being.</p> <p>Developing and delivering overarching policy and programmes on sustainable development and natural resources management agriculture, environment, food and marine; develop and implement climate change policy, energy efficiency, Green Growth, a circular economy, green infrastructure, environmental protection, flood & coastal risk, water and sewage policy and legislation; landfill disposal communities scheme; deliver nature conservation and forestry policies; sponsor and manage delivery bodies; developing an appropriate evidence base to support the work of environment and rural affairs; protecting animal, plant and bee health and developing GM policies; promote and support protected landscapes and wider access to green space; administration and delivery of the Common Agricultural Policy; delivering programmes within the Rural Development Plan; supporting new farm entrants, farmers and rural communities in Wales; evidence based development for rural affairs; developing and managing Welsh marine, fisheries and aquaculture including the enforcement of Welsh fisheries; developing and marketing Welsh food & drink and any related expenditure and non-fiscal resource use.</p>	639,838

Ambits for expenditure incurred by Welsh Ministers (excluding accruing resources)	
<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Services and purposes</i>	<i>Amount £000</i>
<p>Central Services and Administration</p> <p>For use by Welsh Ministers to spend on Central Services and Administration and promoting equality; the prevention of violence; advice and advocacy; resilience and civil contingency; youth justice; community support officers; community facilities programme, supporting the voluntary sector, International development and relations.</p> <p>Expenditure on Welsh Government running costs (including staff costs; general administration; asset management; capital and capital charges; IT costs; business improvement; and provisions for early retirement and pensions); the cost of elections and referendum: statistical information and research; funding of external bodies; fiscal responsibilities (including devolved taxation and borrowing); (pan-Wales) procurement services; events and corporate communications; inquiries and investigations; the Invest-to-Save fund; the Land Release Fund; managing the delivery of European funding in Wales; preventing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence; advice and advocacy; resilience and civil contingency; female offending and youth justice blueprints; community support officers; community facilities programme; supporting the voluntary sector; establishing and maintaining Gypsy/Traveller sites; promoting International development and relations and any related expenditure and non-fiscal resource use.</p>	<p>453,502</p>

Schedule 2 – Use of accruing resources by Welsh Ministers

Part 1: Health and Social Services

<i>Column 1</i> <i>Category of accruing resource</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>Services and purposes for which income may be retained</i>
<p>Accruing resources include income under the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme; income in respect of settlement of legal claims; charges for accommodation, goods and services to private and NHS patients, local authorities and others; repayment of Invest to Save funding from Local Health Boards and Welsh NHS Trusts; income from the Scottish Government, Northern Ireland Executive, Department of Health, other government departments and the European Union; income generation schemes; non-operating income from sale of land, buildings, vehicles, equipment and property and recoveries of VAT; income from rebate schemes and agreements.</p>	<p>Services and purposes include expenditure on primary and community health services; the purchase or acquisition of fixed assets by Welsh NHS Trusts, Local Health Boards and associated healthcare providers; supporting the provision and administration of health and social care services.</p>
Overall amount of Income (£000)	68,636

Part 2: Housing and Local Government

<i>Column 1</i> <i>Category of accruing resource</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>Services and Purposes for which income may be retained</i>
<p>Accruing resources include grant funding direct or indirect from the European Commission, including the repayment and recovery of grant payments and recoveries of VAT; fees and charges for inspections and regulatory services; income from the sale of capital assets; income from the redistribution of members' interests in investment, income from repayments of Social Housing Grant; provision of training and development events; training provider repayments; charges for dental registration; income from staff secondments; repayment of loans, including staff loans; rental income on property; compensation under commercial and civil settlements and levy of facilitation fees.</p>	<p>Services and purposes include running costs, general administration costs and resource expenditure of Inspectorates and the Valuation Tribunal; the delivery of training interventions for the Welsh Public Service; supporting expenditure on safer communities and regeneration; the payment of grants to local authorities and Third Sector bodies; all European funded projects; and to support all expenditure as identified within the expenditure Ambit.</p>
Overall amount of Income (£000)	29,537

Part 3: Economy and Transport

<i>Column 1</i> <i>Category of accruing resource</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>Services and Purposes for which income may be retained</i>
Accruing resources and funding either direct or indirect from the European Commission; property rental and other associated income; business services charges; project contributions from other public sector and private sector organisations; investment income; grant repayments and repayable business finance; income from the sale of capital assets; transport studies receipts; compensation under commercial and civil settlements and levy of facilitation fees; and recoveries of VAT.	All European funded projects and to support all expenditure as identified within the expenditure Ambit.
Overall amount of Income (£000)	84,840

Part 4: Education

<i>Column 1</i> <i>Category of accruing resource</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>Services and Purposes for which income may be retained</i>
<p>Accruing resources include income from European Projects, research & evaluation; curriculum royalties; recoveries of Student Loans; funding from the Higher Education Research Capital fund; sales of publications and recoveries of VAT. Accruing resources including repayment and recovery of grant payments; income relating to science and life science activities; fees and charges for inspections and regulatory services; provision of training and development events; income from staff secondments; repayments of staff loans; income from the sale of capital assets; recovery of loans made and any interest charges thereon; ad-hoc recoveries and grants from other sources.</p>	<p>Services and purposes include supporting European projects, CQFW, programme development, research & evaluation current expenditure; to support curriculum current expenditure and to support all expenditure as identified within the expenditure Ambit.</p>
Overall amount of income (£000)	274,511

Part 5: Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language

<i>Column 1</i> <i>Category of accruing resource</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>Services and Purposes for which income may be retained</i>
<p>Accruing resources and funding either direct or indirect from the European Commission; business services charges; project contributions and other income from other public sector and private sector organisations; investment income; grant repayments and repayable business finance; admission charges and other operational income for Cadw; the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments; the National Botanic Garden of Wales and sponsored bodies; National Museum of Wales; National Library of Wales; Sports Wales and the Arts Council of Wales; income from fixed penalty notices issued under the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013 and recoveries of VAT and other taxes.</p>	<p>All European funded projects and to support all expenditure as identified within the expenditure Ambit.</p>
Overall amount of income (£000)	4,426

Part 6: Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

<i>Column 1</i> <i>Category of accruing resource</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>Services and Purposes for which income may be retained</i>
<p>Accruing resources include funding either direct or indirect from the European Commission including income from European structural funds; income from the EU to support farmers and rural communities in Wales; income from wind farm projects; income from Pwllpeiran Farm; income from the sale of capital assets, including buildings; income from grant recoveries from local authorities, third sector organisations and other public and private sector organisations; civil penalty fines associated with emission trading schemes; income from marine licences; income from the salvage of carcasses from animals slaughtered for disease control, ad-hoc grants from other sources and recoveries of VAT; funding from other central government departments and income related to Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs.</p>	<p>Services and purposes include expenditure relating to Pwllpeiran Farm; grant payments, schemes part supported by other government departments; all European funded projects and to support all expenditure as identified within the expenditure Ambit.</p>
Overall amount of Income (£000)	106,379

Part 7: Central Services and Administration

<i>Column 1</i> <i>Category of accruing resource</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>Services and Purposes for which income may be retained</i>
<p>Accruing resources include income from administrative activity such as: the sale of goods or services; the sale of land or buildings; the recovery of costs; staff secondments and fees; repayment of staff loans; recovery of grant payments; the refund of statutory PAYE deductions; recoveries of tax including VAT; the sub-let of properties; the sale of administrative assets; income from ICT services provided; training provider repayments; recovery of costs shared with other public sector bodies; receipts of recoverable grants including Invest-to-Save receipts; and direct and indirect from the European Commission.</p>	<p>Services and purposes include funding of: running costs and general administrative expenditure; supporting capital expenditure on the Welsh Government's estate and asset base; supporting equality; preventing violence; providing advice; resilience and contingency; female offending and youth justice blueprints; supporting the voluntary sector; community support officers; community facilities programme; International development and relations; and any European funded projects.</p>
Overall amount of Income (£000)	411,131

Schedule 3 – Expenditure Incurred by Direct Funded Bodies (excluding accruing resources)

Part 1 – Senedd Commission

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Services and Purposes</i>	<i>Amount £000</i>
Resources other than accruing resources for use by the Senedd Commission on resource and capital costs associated with the administration and operation of Senedd Services to support Senedd Cymru ('the Senedd'); promotion of the Senedd including payments to the Electoral Commission and others; payments in respect of the Commissioner for Standards and Remuneration Board; any other payments relating to functions of the Senedd or functions of the Senedd Commission. Resources other than accruing resources for use by the Senedd Commission in respect of decisions of the Remuneration Board and expenditure in respect of Senedd Members' Pension provision.	60,625

Part 2 – Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Services and Purposes</i>	<i>Amount £000</i>
Resources other than accruing resources for use by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales ('the Ombudsman') on resource and capital costs associated with the administration of the Ombudsman's office; payments to the British and Irish Ombudsman Association; payments to the International Ombudsman Institute and associated non fiscal items.	5,270

Part 3 – Wales Audit Office

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Services and Purposes</i>	<i>Amount £000</i>
Resources other than accruing resources for use by the Wales Audit Office on the discharge of the statutory functions of the Wales Audit Office and the Auditor General and on the administration of the Wales Audit Office.	8,223

Schedule 4 – Use of accrued resources by Direct Funded Bodies

Part 1 – Senedd Commission

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Category of accruing resource</i>	<i>Services and purposes for which income may be retained</i>
Accruing resources for retention pursuant to section 120(2) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 and use by the Senedd Commission from the disposal of fixed assets and other capital income; rental income; gifts; grant support; recharges; income from commercial sales and other services provided to the public or others.	For use on the purchase or acquisition of fixed assets and for use on administrative costs of the Senedd.
Overall amount of Income (£000)	220

Part 2 – Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Category of accruing resource</i>	<i>Services and purposes for which income may be retained</i>
Income from commercial sales and other services provided to the public or others and repayment of pension surplus.	For use on related services and the administration of the Ombudsman service.
Overall amount of Income (£000)	991

Part 3 – Wales Audit Office

<i>Column 1</i> <i>Category of accruing resource</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>Services and purposes for which income may be retained</i>
Accruing resources from fees and charges for audit, grant certification and related services; grants received to fund audit services ; other recoveries of costs associated with the functions of the Auditor General or Wales Audit Office; miscellaneous income such as from publications, conferences, provision of administrative, professional and technical services; recoveries of costs, such as of seconded staff, staff loans, car leasing payments; recoveries of any costs incurred for a third party; and interest received on working balances.	For use by the Wales Audit Office on the discharge of functions of the Auditor General and on related services and the administration of the Wales Audit Office.
Overall amount of income (£000)	14,270

Schedule 5: Resource to Cash Reconciliation 2020-21 (£000)**Table 1: Resource to cash Reconciliation for 2020-21 included in the October 2020 Supplementary Budget Motion (£000)**

	Welsh Ministers	Senedd Commission	Public Services Ombudsman	Wales Audit Office
Net Resource Requirement	20,800,519	59,075	5,085	7,998
Net Capital Requirement	1,769,722	500	25	230
Adjustments:				
Capital Charges	-405,517	-2,250	-60	-280
Impairments	-369,584	0	0	0
Movements in Provisions	-64,202	-1,600	0	0
Profit/Loss on sale of assets	0	0	0	0
Movements in stocks	0	0	0	0
Movements in debtors/creditors	542,000	350	0	500
Use of Provisions	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	20	0
Net Cash Requirement for issue from the Welsh Consolidated Fund	22,272,938	56,075	5,070	8,448

Table 2: Changes to the Resource to cash Reconciliation included in this Supplementary Budget Motion (£000)

	Welsh Ministers	Senedd Commission	Public Services Ombudsman	Wales Audit Office
Net Resource Requirement	2,494,108	1,050	160	-5
Net Capital Requirement	624,399	0	0	0
Adjustments:				
Capital Charges	-180,057	0	0	0
Impairments	-590,817	0	0	0
Movements in Provisions	-124,291	-400	0	0
Profit/Loss on sale of assets	0	0	0	0
Movements in stocks	0	0	0	0
Movements in debtors/creditors	-542,000	-650	-160	0
Use of Provisions	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	-974	0
Net Cash Requirement for issue from the Welsh Consolidated Fund	1,681,342	0	-974	-5

Table 3: Resource to cash Reconciliation included in this Supplementary Budget Motion (£000)

	Welsh Ministers	Senedd Commission	Public Services Ombudsman	Wales Audit Office
Net Resource Requirement	23,294,627	60,125	5,245	7,993
Net Capital Requirement	2,394,121	500	25	230
Adjustments:				
Capital Charges	-585,574	-2,250	-60	-280
Impairments	-960,401	0	0	0
Movements in Provisions	-188,493	-2,000	0	0
Profit/Loss on sale of assets	0	0	0	0
Movements in stocks	0	0	0	0
Movements in debtors/creditors	0	-300	-160	500
Use of Provisions	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	-954	0
Net Cash Requirement for issue from the Welsh Consolidated Fund	23,954,280	56,075	4,096	8,443

Notes:

1. This table content and format complies with Section 125(1) (c) and 126(2) of the Act which states that for the purposes of authorising the motion there shall be a statement authorising ‘the amount which may be paid out of the Welsh Consolidated Fund in the financial year to the relevant persons, or for use pursuant to a relevant enactment, for the purposes so specified’. Payments made out of the Welsh Consolidated Fund are made in cash; therefore this table shows the relevant cash requirements in support of the resources requested in support of Schedules 1 to 4 which state the relevant purposes for which resources may be used.
2. This table content and format also complies with Standing Order 20.28(v), which states that the budget motion must include reconciliation between the resources to be authorised under section 125(1) (a) and (b) of the Act and the amounts to be authorised for payment out of the Welsh Consolidated Fund under section 125(c) of the Act.

Schedule 6: Reconciliation of resources requested in the budget motion to resources made available by the Treasury for the Welsh Block for 2020-21

Table 1: Reconciliation of Resources Requested in the October 2020 Supplementary Budget Motion to the resources made available by the Treasury for Wales (£000)

	2020-21 (£000)				
	Resource DEL	Capital DEL	Resource AME	Capital AME	Total
<i>Resources Requested in the Budget Motion:</i>					
- Welsh Ministers	20,649,874	906,091	150,645	863,631	22,570,241
- Senedd Commission	57,475	500	1,600	0	59,575
- Ombudsman	5,085	25	0	0	5,110
- Wales Audit Office	7,998	230	0	0	8,228
Total Resources Requested in the Annual Budget Motion	20,720,432	906,846	152,245	863,631	22,643,154
<i>Adjustments:</i>					
(i) Resource Consumption of WGSBs	15,003	0	5,413	0	20,416
(ii) Grants	-1,317,168	1,317,168	0	0	0
(iii) Supported Borrowing	0	88,800	0	0	88,800
(iv) Direct Charges on the Welsh Consolidated Fund	3,238	0	804,000	0	807,238
(v) Other	15,060	0	0	0	15,060
Welsh Ministers & Direct Funded Bodies Total Managed Expenditure	19,436,565	2,312,814	961,658	863,631	23,574,668
- Wales Office	5,200	30	0	0	5,230
- Borrowing	0	-125,000	0	125,000	0
- Devolved Taxes	-2,333,313	0	2,333,313	0	0
- Unallocated Reserve	1,057,541	249,905	0	0	1,307,446
Total Managed Expenditure (Block)	18,165,993	2,437,749	3,294,971	988,631	24,887,344

Table 2: Changes to the Reconciliation of Resources Requested in the October 2020 Supplementary Budget Motion to the resources made available by the Treasury for Wales (£000)

	2020-21 (£000)				
	Resource DEL	Capital DEL	Resource AME	Capital AME	Total
<i>Resources Requested in the Budget Motion:</i>					
- Welsh Ministers	2,302,551	590,286	191,557	34,113	3,118,507
- Senedd Commission	650	0	400	0	1,050
- Ombudsman	-814	0	974	0	160
- Wales Audit Office	-5	0	0	0	-5
Total Resources Requested in the Supplementary Budget Motion	2,302,382	590,286	192,931	34,113	3,119,712
<i>Adjustments:</i>					
(i) Resource Consumption of WGSBs	-4,288	0	-5,413	0	-9,701
(ii) Grants	-246,671	246,671	0	0	0
(iii) Supported Borrowing	-771	0	0	0	-771
(iv) Direct Charges on the Welsh Consolidated Fund	746	0	-112,000	0	-111,254
(v) Other	0	0	0	0	0
Welsh Ministers & Direct Funded Bodies Total Managed Expenditure	2,051,398	836,957	75,518	34,113	2,997,986
- Wales Office	0	0	0	0	0
- Borrowing	0	125,000	0	-125,000	0
- Devolved Taxes	0	0	0	0	0
- Unallocated Reserve	-712,610	-248,411	0	0	-961,995
Total Managed Expenditure (Block)	1,338,788	713,546	75,518	-90,887	2,036,965

Table 3: Reconciliation of Resources Requested in this Supplementary Budget

	2020-21 (£000)				
	Resource DEL	Capital DEL	Resource AME	Capital AME	Total
<i>Resources Requested in the Budget Motion:</i>					
- Welsh Ministers	22,952,425	1,496,377	342,202	897,744	25,688,748
- Senedd Commission	58,125	500	2,000	0	60,625
- Ombudsman	4,271	25	974	0	5,270
- Wales Audit Office	7,993	230	0	0	8,223
Total Resources Requested in the Supplementary Budget Motion	23,022,814	1,497,132	345,176	897,744	25,762,866
<i>Adjustments:</i>					
(i) Resource Consumption of WGSBs	10,715	0	0	0	10,715
(ii) Grants	-1,563,839	1,563,839	0	0	0
(iii) Supported Borrowing	-771	88,800	0	0	88,029
(iv) Direct Charges on the Welsh Consolidated Fund	3,984	0	692,000	0	695,984
(v) Other	15,060	0	0	0	15,060
Welsh Ministers & Direct Funded Bodies Total Managed Expenditure	21,487,963	3,149,771	1,037,176	897,744	26,572,654
- Wales Office	5,200	30	0	0	5,230
- Borrowing	0	0	0	0	0
- Devolved Taxes	-2,333,313	0	2,333,313	0	0
- Unallocated Reserve	344,931	1,494	0	0	346,425
Total Managed Expenditure (Block)	19,504,781	3,151,295	3,370,489	897,744	26,924,309

Notes:

1. The total resource requirement for the Welsh Government is equivalent to the total of the allocations included in the Ambits of Schedule 1.
2. Standing Order 20.28(ii) states that the annual budget motion should include the resources agreed by the Treasury for the Welsh block budget for the financial year covered by the motion. Schedule 6 satisfies this requirement.

3. Standing Order 20.28(iii) states that the annual budget motion must include a reconciliation between the resources allocated to the Welsh block budget by the Treasury and the resources to be authorised for use in the budget motion. Schedule 6 satisfies this requirement.
4. The schedules above show variations authorised for the financial year under S126 of the Act and SO20.31.
5. Direct charges on the Welsh Consolidated Fund are:

Item	2020-21 £000
Payments to the National Loans Fund – Interest ^{Note}	2,474
Election Costs	765
Salaries and related pension costs of the Presiding Officer and the Deputy Presiding Officer	266
Salaries and related pension costs of the Ombudsman	213
Salaries and related pension costs of the Auditor General	206
Salaries and related pension costs of the Chair of the Wales Audit Office	27
Salaries and related pension costs of the Commissioner for Standards	33
Redistributable National Non Domestic Rates	692,000
Total	695,984

Note:

An additional £2,362,000 is estimated to be directly charged to the Welsh Consolidated Fund in respect of the principal repayment of borrowing to the National Loans Fund. This payment is outside Total Managed Expenditure.

Schedule 7: Reconciliation of cash inflows to the Welsh Consolidated Fund to the cash issues to be requested in the budget motion (£000)

	Previous Provision 2020-21	Changes	Revised Provision 2020-21
Estimated net amounts payable to Welsh Ministers:			
Grant payable by the Secretary of State to the Welsh Consolidated Fund under Section 118 (1)	19,716,252	761,547	20,477,799
Payover of Welsh Rate of Income Tax to the Welsh Consolidated Fund	2,169,668	0	2,169,668
Funds borrowed from the National Loans Fund and commercial banks under Section 121	125,000	-125,000	0
Payments from Other Government Departments	1,327,527	-47,845	1,279,682
Payments from other sources	1,960,902	-69,317	1,891,585
Less amounts authorised to be retained by Welsh Ministers and Direct Funded Bodies	-990,895	-4,046	-994,941
Estimated amounts payable to Welsh Consolidated Fund	24,308,454	515,339	24,823,793
Distributed as follows:			
- Welsh Ministers	22,272,938	1,681,342	23,954,280
- Senedd Commission	56,075	0	56,075
- Ombudsman	5,070	-974	4,096
- Wales Audit Office	8,448	-5	8,443
Cash Released from the Welsh Consolidated Fund in the Motion	22,342,531	-1,680,363	24,022,894
Direct Charges on the Welsh Consolidated Fund	809,600	-111,254	698,346
Unallocated Funds	1,156,323	-1,053,770	102,553
Total Estimated Payments	24,308,454	515,339	24,823,793

Notes:

1. Section 125(3) of the Act states that the annual budget motion must be accompanied by a written statement made by Ministers showing:
 - i. the total amount of the payments which they estimate will be made for the financial year under Section 118(1);
 - ii. the total amount of the payments which they estimate will be made to the Welsh Ministers, the First Minister or the Counsel General for the financial year by Ministers of the Crown and government departments; and

- iii. the total amount of payments which they estimate will be made to the Welsh Ministers, the First Minister or the Counsel General for the financial year otherwise than by a Minister of the Crown or government department.
2. The schedule above shows variations in these amounts as required under SO20.31.

March 2021

Agenda Item 2.2

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: RE-499-21

Llyr Gruffydd
Chair, Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru

2 March 2021

Dear Llyr.

I agreed to provide the Committee with further detail on the funding that has been allocated to support business during the pandemic. Please see the attached annex setting out the information requested.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

Welsh Government Covid-19 Business Support

Funding	Date Operated	Offer
Covid-19 Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Grant Scheme Over £770m delivered	April 2020 – June 2020	<p>A grant of £25,000 was made available for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses occupying properties with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £51,000.</p> <p>A £10,000 grant was made available to all businesses eligible for small business rates relief (SBRR) in Wales with a rateable value of £12,000 or less.</p>
ERF Phase 1 £400m	April 2020	<p>Micro businesses, including start-ups, could have been eligible for up to £10k support.</p> <p>SME businesses between 10 and 249 employees could have been eligible for grants of up to £100k.</p> <p>Funding was available to support large businesses with more than 249 employees. Applications were considered on a case-by-case basis to consider where funding could be deployed most effectively to compliment other sources of support.</p> <p>Phase 1 was only for businesses who were VAT registered or exempt from VAT with turnover greater than £85k.</p>
Covid-19 Wales Business Loan Scheme £100m	April 2020	<p>The £100m Covid-19 Wales Business Loan Scheme was available for companies experiencing cash flow problems as a result of the pandemic and provides loans of between £5k and £250k at favourable interest rates. The fund was fully subscribed in the first week.</p>
Start-Up Grants £5m	June 2020 – September 2020	<p>The Welsh Government recognised that there was an identified need to support those who are self-employed but fall outside of the UK announced Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) because they only started trading during 2019. To address this need a £5m Start-Up Grant was launched to support up to 2,000 start-ups in Wales with a grant of £2,500 each. The scheme closed to new applications at 5pm on Friday 4th September.</p> <p>The Start-Up Grant provided a potential lifeline to those who established their business after the 31 March 2019, and help them to continue trading through the Covid-19 outbreak.</p> <p>The purpose of the grant was to support newly created businesses with immediate cash flow support to help them survive the economic consequences of the Covid-19 outbreak. The grant sought to complement other Covid-19 response measures to support businesses, social enterprises and charitable organisations in Wales.</p>

Welsh Government Covid-19 Business Support

<p>ERF Phase 2</p> <p>£300m</p>	<p>June 2020 – July 2020</p>	<p>The second phase of ERF released £200m and then a further £100m of funding to target micro, SMEs and Large businesses of critical social or economic importance to Wales.</p> <p>Micro businesses were eligible for up to £10k support.</p> <p>SMEs were eligible for up to £100k support.</p> <p>Large businesses were eligible for up to £690k in compliance with temporary State Aid rules.</p>
<p>Cultural Recovery Fund</p> <p>£63m</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Pack Page 35</p>	<p>September 2020 – October 2020</p>	<p>A non-repayable grant of up to £150,000 (up to 100% of eligible costs) per organisation was made available via two application entry points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under £10,000: quick process for smaller organisations based on eligible costs - Between £10,000 to £150,000: more detailed process based on eligible costs <p>A separate element of the Cultural Recovery Fund, worth £27.5 million, was delivered through the Arts Council of Wales to support theatres and galleries. This fund was launched 17 August and applications are now closed, applicants were not able to apply for both Arts Council for Wales and Welsh Government Funding.</p>
<p>Childcare Provider Grant</p> <p>£4m</p>	<p>August 2020 – October 2020</p>	<p>Childcare providers including child minders, nurseries, cylch meithrin, crèches and out of school clubs could apply for up to £5,000 to cover loss of income between 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.</p>
<p>Cultural Recovery Fund Freelancer Grant</p> <p>£10.5m</p>	<p>October 2020</p>	<p>Covid Freelancers working in the cultural and creative sectors in Wales were able to apply for their share of a £7 million fund – which was targeted specifically at those in the freelance sector hit hardest by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.</p> <p>The fund opened on 5th October and will run over two phases. Individuals could apply for a £2,500 grant. The fund will be open to freelancers in the sub sectors of arts, creative industries, arts and heritage events, culture and heritage, whose work has direct creative/cultural outcomes. The Phase 2 of the Freelancer Fund has opened for applications.</p> <p>A further £3.5m was made available through the third phase of the Cultural Recovery Fund to support the Freelancer Fund. Applications for phase 3 opened from Monday 23 November to freelancers in the creative sector.</p>

Welsh Government Covid-19 Business Support

<p>ERF Phase 3 – Business Development Grants</p> <p>£100m</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Pack Page 27</p>	<p>October 2020 – November 2020</p>	<p>Phase 3 of the Economic Resilience Fund (ERF) made available almost £300m for businesses to help them deal with the economic challenges of Covid-19 and the UK’s impending exit from the EU transition period.</p> <p>The ERF was open to businesses of all sizes and all sectors across Wales, including social enterprises and charities, subject to eligibility criteria being met, and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Business Development Grants</u>: £100m to help businesses develop and secure the employment of their workforces through business development grants with some firms required to commit some of their own resources in return. • <u>Tourism and Hospitality Support</u>: £20m of the £100m Business Development Grants has been ring-fenced to support tourism and hospitality businesses facing particular constraints and challenges as we enter the winter months. • <u>Lockdown Business Fund</u>: £199.5m to support businesses that are affected by lockdown restrictions, including a discretionary grant element (further details listed below) <p>ERF Business Development Grants opened for applications on 28th October and closed on 29th October due to the high volume of applications. The Lockdown Business Fund closed for registrations on the 20th of November.</p>
<p>ERF Phase 3 – NDR Lockdown Fund</p> <p>£199.5m</p>	<p>October 2020 – November 2020</p>	<p>The third phase of ERF also included a £199.5m Lockdown Business Fund which was delivered by local authorities. The fund provided the following to eligible businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail, leisure and hospitality businesses forced to close (as defined by the regulations) during the firebreak lockdown period occupying a property with a rateable value between £12,001 and £51,000 were eligible for a £5,000 payment. • Every business eligible for Small Business Rates Relief occupying a property with a rateable value of £12,000 or less were eligible for a £1,000 payment. • A discretionary enhanced £2,000 top-up grant was made available on an application basis for those businesses with a rateable value of £12,000 or less who were forced to close by the firebreak lockdown (as defined by the regulations).

Welsh Government Covid-19 Business Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A further discretionary enhanced £1,000 grant was made available to businesses on the same basis where they had been materially affected by local lockdown restrictions prior to the start of the firebreak lockdown period. <p>The Lockdown Business Fund closed to registrations on the 20th of November.</p>
<p>NDR Restrictions Business Fund</p> <p>£160m</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Pack Page 38</p>	<p>December 2020 - March 2021</p>	<p>The Restrictions Business Fund non-domestic rates (NDR) and discretionary based grants for non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure and tourism (NERHLT) sectors is providing payments to cover the period between the December and end of March 2021 for businesses affected by national restrictions.</p> <p>This will provide businesses with a minimum combined £6k-£10k grant before taking into account support via the Economic Resilience Fund (ERF) Sector Specific Fund, Job Support Scheme and the wider package.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NERHLT businesses in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) and with a rateable value of £12,000 or less will be eligible for £6,000. Supply chain businesses qualifying for SBRR will also be eligible for this support if they have greater than 40% reduction in turnover during the restriction period. NERHLT businesses with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £51,000 will also be eligible for £10,000 if impacted by the restrictions. Supply chain businesses in the same rateable value bracket will also be eligible for this support if they have greater than 40% reduction in turnover during the restriction period. NERHLT businesses with a rateable value of between £51,001 and £500,000 will also be eligible for £5,000 if impacted by the restrictions. Supply chain businesses in the same rateable value bracket will also be eligible for this support if they have greater than 40% reduction in turnover during the restriction period. NERHLT businesses with a rateable value up to £150k who registered and received the ERF Restriction Fund Grant in December/January via their Local Authority will begin receiving payments into their bank account during February. These businesses will not be required to re-register their details.

Welsh Government Covid-19 Business Support

		<p>Eligible businesses who haven't received the grant to date must register and can also register for the previous period at the same time.</p> <p>The extension is providing support to retail, leisure and tourism business properties with rateable values of between £150k and £500k p.a. This will enable support to be provided to a cohort of medium sized firms that to date have not received support via the BRF grants schemes. These businesses will be required to register their details, as well as making a short on-line application to their respective local authority.</p> <p>Businesses can access the registration and application process through the Business Wales and local authority websites. https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/erf-restrictions-business-fund</p> <p>To support businesses who are not registered on the NDR register and with a turnover below £50k, a further £30m phase of the Local Discretionary Fund has also been approved and will provide a £2,000 grant via a second round application and payment. Businesses will need to submit an application to the fund.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Pack Page 39</p> <p>Barriers Grant £2m</p>	<p>December 2020 – March 2021</p>	<p>Applicants will be able to apply for up to £2,000 to support essential business costs, based on need and supported by a business plan.</p> <p>All applicants will be required to register with Business Wales to receive business support from one of our providers to help them consider the viability of their business idea and develop a business plan. Support is also available for from Big Ideas Wales, our Enterprise Hubs or Social Business Wales.</p> <p>The Business Wales Barriers Fund is open to applications until 19th March 2021, or sooner if funds are used up before that date. Further details on how to apply and to register with Business Wales can be found on the Business Wales website: https://businesswales.gov.wales/business-wales-barriers-grant</p>
<p>ERF Sector Specific Fund £180m</p>	<p>January 2021 – February 2021</p>	<p>The £180m ERF Sector Specific Support (operating costs) package was targeted at hospitality, tourism and leisure businesses or supply chain companies who are materially impacted with a greater than <u>60%</u> impact of turnover as a result of the restrictions. Eligible businesses had to be employing staff via PAYE, and either VAT registered or (exempt from VAT) with turnover above £85,000, or limited companies with turnover above £50,000.</p>

Welsh Government Covid-19 Business Support

Pack Page 40

Businesses who have accessed the ERF Restrictions Business Fund could also apply for this fund. For eligible businesses the package of support provided the following grant awards:

- For single employee business, minimum grant of £2,500
- SMEs (up to 249 employees) - £1,500 per employee up to a maximum of 10 employees, representing £15,000 or for those employing more than 10, £1,500 per employee or self-declared operating costs for the restricted period (whichever is the lower amount).

There would be an upper limit of £100,000 for SME businesses with a digital system based application.
- Large businesses (250+ employees) - £500 per employee for Welsh headquartered large business applicants to a maximum of £150,000, with a manual case by case application via the sector team.

An eligibility checker and calculator tool was available on the Business Wales website. The ERF Sector Specific Fund opened to applications on the 13th January 2021 and closed on 29th January 2021.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Constitution Committee

Rt Hon Chief Secretary to the
Treasury, Stephen Barclay MP (by
e-mail)

The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

finance.constitution@parliament.scot

4 March 2021

Dear Chief Secretary,

Thank you for your letter dated 12 February in response to recommendations in our pre-budget report.

The Committee has now published our report on the Scottish Government's Budget 2021-22.¹

The Committee noted that this is the second consecutive year in which the Scottish Budget has been published prior to the UK Budget. The Committee recognises that this was due to the UK General Election in December 2019 and then the exceptional circumstances arising from COVID-19. In both cases this has resulted in a truncated period for parliamentary scrutiny which makes detailed consideration of the Budget very challenging. The interconnectedness of the UK Budget and the Scottish Budget exacerbates this challenge.

The Committee has therefore recommended that our successor should work with its counterpart committees in Wales, Northern Ireland and the House of Commons with a view to impressing on HM Treasury the benefits of better alignment between the devolved budget processes and UK fiscal events. The forthcoming review of the Fiscal Framework also provides an opportunity to address this issue.

The Committee reiterates our recommendation in our pre-budget report that HM Treasury gives a commitment that if the fiscal position continues to rapidly evolve in 2021-22 that the funding guarantee for COVID-19 related Barnett consequential should continue in the next financial year.

¹ <https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/FCC/2021/2/23/c04d100c-3d3d-4af6-bf53-bd49031b49d6/FCC052021R2.pdf>


The Committee also recommends that the spill over provision arising from the impact of Personal Allowance increases on the Scottish Budget should be agreed between HM Treasury and the Scottish Government as soon as practical.

Finally, the Committee recommends that given borrowing costs are extraordinarily low, HM Treasury considers increasing the Scottish Government's capital borrowing powers as a value for money means of supporting economic recovery.

Given that the Parliament will be in a pre-election recess from 26 March it would be helpful to have a response by 19 March.

I am copying this letter to the Chairs of our counterpart committees in the House of Commons, the Senedd and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Crawford', is positioned above the printed name.

Bruce Crawford MSP
Convener

Ken Skates AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales



Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf / Our ref: KS/474/21

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Action.CST@hmtreasury.gov.uk

4 February 2021

Dear Steve,

Further to our discussion on the 28th January, we are writing to confirm the Welsh Government's position on the UK Government's proposal for Freeports in Wales.

We remain open to the prospect of having Freeports within Wales. We recognise the attractiveness of the proposals to ports and businesses, and the substantial priority that the UK Government has placed on the Freeports policy. We are therefore willing to work with you to explore the introduction of Freeports into Wales, but we need confidence that they are consistent with our own values and priorities, treated with equal significance by the UK Government, and not left at a disadvantage.

Freeports in Wales should be given the same opportunities as those in England, including a commitment from the UK Government to match the offer in England by providing £25 million in seed capital funding. We have previously made clear our position that, as the overall Freeports policy is a place-based intervention, population-based funding formulas would not be appropriate and we could not accept an outcome which would make Wales worse off as a result of the UK Government's Freeports policy.

Additionally, an open-ended commitment by the Welsh Government to match the UK Government's offer on Non Domestic Rates and Stamp Duty (Land Transaction Tax in Wales) would present a significant risk to Welsh tax revenues. We are prepared to cover devolved tax costs up to an agreed threshold, but would seek with UK Government covering costs above that.

The Welsh Government's assessment of this policy is based on the risks and

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

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.

opportunities associated with the creation of Freeports as they apply to the Welsh economy. These factors are based on the interests of, and outcomes for, the people of Wales and are of course distinct from considerations concerning other devolved administrations. As discussed at our meeting, the urban and industrial centres situated close to our porous border are more likely to be impacted by potential displacement.

We expect any Freeports in Wales to be consistent with the values and priorities of the democratically elected government of Wales, including our commitments to Fair Work and protecting the environment. Your stated position during our discussion was that the Chancellor would ultimately decide on Freeports. Whilst our preference would be for decision making to lie with Welsh Ministers, as we are best placed to make decisions in the interest of the people of Wales, we would be willing to accept joint-arrangements on criteria, decision making and allocation. We could not accept a proposal that would treat the Welsh Government as an unequal partner and we do not believe this would be in the interests of successful delivery.

Furthermore, as we approach the end of the Senedd parliamentary term, the UK Government's proposal would require a significant commitment of the Welsh Government's resources at a time when important priorities have had to be re-profiled due to the pandemic. It is important to note the additional pressure this proposal adds to that process in this extraordinary period.

However, despite these challenges we recognise that this is a significant priority for the UK Government and, with the right deal, we would seek to advance this priority with you with positivity. The Welsh Government is uniquely placed to bring together the partners and stakeholders who will be integral to delivering a successful intervention but we cannot accept a situation where Wales is left disadvantaged by entering into the arrangements you have proposed.

Ultimately the UK Government must demonstrate the same level of commitment to Freeports in both Wales and England, and we need to ensure we have the right arrangements to work positively together effectively. Without this agreement, Wales faces being left with either a weaker Freeport offer which is lacking devolved levers, less funding support, or no Freeport at all. We further note that it remains unclear whether a unilaterally imposed Freeport in Wales would draw investment of £25m seed capital from the UK Treasury or whether such a Freeport would secure less UK investment because it is located in Wales.

We are copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Yours sincerely,



Ken Skates AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a
Gogledd Cymru
Minister for Economy, Transport and
North Wales



Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-RE-0709-20

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair, Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

05 March 2021

Dear Llyr,

I am pleased to enclose at Annex A the Government's response to the recommendations contained in the Finance Committee's report on its scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2021-22 (February 2021).

Given the unprecedented circumstances we have faced, I would like to place on record my gratitude to the Finance Committee and the other Committees for their cooperation in conducting scrutiny in a truncated period.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

Response to Finance Committee's Recommendations on the Draft Budget 2021-22

Recommendation 1 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government outlines the implications of, and its response to, the UK Budget as soon as possible, to enable the Committee to reflect on potential changes to the Welsh Government's Budget 2021-22.

Response: Accept

In line with established practice, the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd will provide a Written Statement on the day of the UK Budget setting out the immediate implications of the UK Budget for Wales including any change in the funding available to Wales and any tax measures which have implications for Wales. We will write to the Finance Committee with full details of consequential changes arising as a result of the UK Budget. The final Budget debate on 9 March will be an early opportunity for the Senedd to reflect on changes to the Welsh Government's overall settlement.

Recommendation 2 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government continues to seek commitments from the UK Government that UK fiscal events will normally take place by a specified date to ensure devolved administrations have sufficient time to carry out meaningful budget setting and scrutiny.

Response: Accept

As we acknowledged in response to scrutiny of our 2020-21 budget plans; while the timing of UK fiscal events is a matter for the UK Government, we will continue to highlight to the UK Government the importance of providing the Devolved Administrations with greater certainty and clarity in relation to the timing of UK fiscal events, given the impact this has for our respective budget procedures.

We have also welcomed the support of the Devolved Administrations' Finance Committees on this matter where, in your joint letter to the Chief Secretary, you reinforced the dependence on the timing of the UK Budget and impact on the appropriate level of parliamentary scrutiny.

Recommendation 3 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government continues to seek commitments from the UK Government for multi-year funding settlements to be reinstated in time for next year's budget process.

Response: Accept

We welcome the Committee's recognition that the lack of forward funding figures from the UK Government has meant that the Welsh Government has been unable to give multi-year funding settlements.

In this regard the UK Government has published longer-term resource and capital plans for certain programmes, including for the NHS and education. However, these are exclusive to England and do not provide a reliable guide for future funding in Wales, as movements in other programmes not covered by these plans could have a material effect on our overall expenditure limits. This impacts on the Welsh Government's ability to provide longer-term certainty for the many services and organisations we fund particularly given the fiscal context we are facing.

It remains the Welsh Government's aspiration to provide longer-term budgets for our partners and stakeholders. Welsh Ministers will continue to press the case to the UK Government to publish multi-year settlements to provide Devolved Administrations with the same certainty that is afforded to UK Departments.

Recommendation 4 - The Committee recommends that, to inform scrutiny during the coming financial year, the Welsh Government considers how it can provide up-to-date information on its spending commitments in regard of the pandemic, as well as providing transparency on the finance it has available and the consequentials it is receiving

Response: Accept

As was outlined by the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd during scrutiny; despite the exceptional circumstances this financial year due to the pandemic, we have in line with our commitment to transparency sought to provide up-to-date information and supporting material to enable meaningful scrutiny of the fiscal implications of the pandemic. In recognition of the fast-moving situation at the start of the financial year, we published an early Supplementary Budget, followed by a further one in October and in February.

We are the only government within the UK to have published three updates to our in-year budget and to have provided transparency of our funding decisions in this way. The Minister for Finance and Trefnydd also stated that this level of transparency and the additional steps put in place this year is something future administrations should consider building upon.

Recommendation 5 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government urgently formulates a plan for accelerating funding, in the event that there is no agreement on increasing limits on carrying forward funding in the Wales reserve, to prevent any Welsh funding being lost.

Response: Accept

Full details of the Welsh Government's final spending plans for 2020-21 were set out in the third supplementary budget published on 16th February. It formalises more than £1.1bn of COVID-19 related spending decisions taken since the second supplementary budget was published in October 2020.

As part of the UK Government's Supplementary Estimates for 2020-21, Wales has received an extra £660m, over and above the £5.2bn funding guarantee, reflecting its Barnett share of funding announced in England. The Welsh Government is carrying this funding forward into 2021-22, on top of the Wales Reserve. This additional funding has been factored into the final Budget 2021-22.

Recommendation 6 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government continues to press the UK Government for fair funding in relation to recent decisions that are causing uncertainty or impacting on funding available to Wales such as HS2, shared prosperity fund, pillar funding, legacy coal tips, flood damage and that the current and future Finance Minister updates the Committee on progress.

Response: Accept

We welcomed that, as part of the Committee's scrutiny of the UK Government Spending Review, the Committee wrote to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury in January pressing the case for fair funding, including the agricultural sector shortfall, Shared Prosperity Fund and HS2 funding. In her evidence to the Committee on 20th January, the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd indicated that the Treasury had signalled that the Chief Secretary was not minded to agree the request to reprofile the £42m pillar transfer for Rural Development. The supplementary estimates process confirmed that this request had been rejected on the basis that the inter-pillar transfer decision related to an EU process that closed in December 2019. We will continue to press the UK Government on this decision, emphasising the disproportionate impact this has on Wales.

We have also seen the UK Government break the pledge it made in the Spending Review, that the devolved nations would receive Barnett consequentials from the Levelling up fund. Instead the UK Government has announced it will use its powers under the Internal Market Act to spend in devolved areas which we view to be an aggressive and unconstitutional undermining of devolution. We will continue to press the UK Government to ensure Wales receives its fair share of funding and will provide the Finance Committee with regular updates on progress and would welcome the committee's ongoing support in pressing the UK Government on these important issues.

Recommendation 7 - The Committee recommends that, where there are ongoing issues regarding funding from the UK Government, the Welsh Government needs to prioritise its finances to ensure there is no delay to funding getting to where it is urgently needed.

Response: Accept

Our approach to allocating funding will continue to be based on providing rapid financial support in a responsible process that targets resources at the right place at the right time based on the course of the pandemic. In line with prudent and responsible budget management this will need to be balanced against the certainty on further UK Government funding and the need to retain flexibility to respond to matters arising in the next financial year.

Recommendation 8 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government provides further information on the measures in place to ensure any additional health funding from the UK Government is allocated efficiently, making the most effective use of resources available.

Response: Accept

The NHS has maintained sound governance processes during the pandemic to ensure that allocations are spent appropriately and ensuring value for money. Welsh Government has maintained a robust monthly financial monitoring process to manage funding requirements and identify areas of variability in resource use.

Audit Wales have reviewed the governance arrangements of the NHS during the pandemic (Doing it Differently, Doing it Right), and have found that all NHS bodies operated effectively with a sense of urgency and a common purpose to adopt lean and agile ways of working and achieve rapid transformation whilst also maintaining a clear focus on core areas of business and governance.

Recommendation 9 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government provides further information about how the additional £385 million funding for core NHS services will be used. This should include a breakdown to show how much has been set aside for the pay award for staff and other services, such as the funding intended to support existing service delivery, for example, to address increasing waiting times due to the pandemic.

Response: Accept

Our core spending plans for the NHS continue to be based on the evidence contained in the 2014 Nuffield Trust and 2016 Health Foundation reports on the levels of investment required to maintain core safe services.

Included within our priorities for funding core NHS services in 2021-22, the £385 million funding will be used to fund pay awards for NHS staff as well as ensuring essential non-Covid services are maintained. We have asked the pay review bodies to advise on the appropriate level of award, and will consider their recommendations when they are received in the early summer. Funding will be allocated to NHS organisations to meet the costs of the pay award. We have confirmed funding already totalling £120 million to local health boards to meet cost growth.

We will also invest in transforming the delivery of health services and in new technologies. This includes new investments in precision medicine, including in Advanced Therapeutic Medicinal Products and genomics, and continuing to invest in education and training of the future NHS workforce.

The experience of the COVID pandemic has highlighted the need for increased investment in health protection. We will provide an extra £10m to Public Health Wales to support the transformation of Health Protection Services in Wales.

We will also invest a further £25m in taking forward the vision set out in *A Healthier Wales*. We will continue our investment in preventative programmes and prioritise digital programmes. These will include national data, digital wards, prescribing and eye care and we will continue to explore further digital transformation and targeted support to maintain essential services.

In terms of waiting times, we are working with the NHS to develop a recovery plan to reintroduce more services when it is safe to do so, but it is unlikely that we will see services back to pre covid NHS capacity for a while as we expect the social distancing requirements to be in place in some form while Covid remains in our communities and hospital environments.

Recommendation 10 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government clarifies how the draft budget allocations address the current issues faced by the NHS in terms of its staff numbers and capacity, as well as those it is likely to experience given the continued impact of the pandemic on its workforce.

Response: Accept

The pandemic has re-enforced the importance of the healthcare workforce and in the draft budget we made an additional investment of £385m for core NHS services, taking total NHS funding in 2021-22 to more than £8.4bn. To ensure NHS Wales organisations have the resources needed to respond to the challenges of the pandemic we have made an additional allocation of **£380m** in the final Budget for the first 6 months of 2021-22 - specific measures funded include COVID-19 vaccinations, PPE, infection control cleaning, NHS Wales Local response plans.

Recommendation 11 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government provides for more investment in staff and training to support NHS workers.

Response: Accept

We welcome the Committee's recognition of this important issue. On 7 December 2020 the Minister for Health and Social Services issued a written statement confirming a further expansion of training places for health professionals. £227.9m will be invested in health professional education and training in 2021-22, representing an 8.3% increase from 2020-21 and will provide the highest ever number of training opportunities in Wales. Further investment in education and training plans will continue to be based on workforce need.

Recommendation 12 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government provides further information about the vaccination programme, differentiating between the costs met by the UK Government and those provided for in the Welsh Governments budgets.

Response: Accept

As outlined during scrutiny, there is a clear separation between vaccine programme costs being covered by the UK Government and by the Welsh Government. The UK Government is procuring vaccine supply on behalf of the 4 nations of the UK.

All other costs relating to the deployment of the vaccine programme are the responsibility of the Welsh Government. The vaccine programme is the absolute priority for the Government and for NHS Wales. We are currently working with health boards to firm up forecasts for the coming months. There are still elements of uncertainty around deployment, not least because vaccine supply is building but with some residual unpredictability, which means the NHS infrastructure needs to flex accordingly.

Recommendation 13 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government clarifies how the allocations for mental health will address issues around the availability of support.

Response: Accept.

In our draft budget we allocated a significant additional funding of £42m for mental health services. This takes total spending on mental health to £783m in 2021-22. Included within this total is £726 million that will be provided to Local Health Boards in 2021-22 as part of the mental health ring-fenced allocation to support current mental health services and support.

This funding also needs to be seen in the context of the cross-Government and multi-agency approach needed to stem the expected increase in mental health needs. Building on actions already included in our recently refreshed Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan we are also working across government to further strengthen our response to the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on mental health as we recognise the need for cross-Government action to support and protect mental health including in employment, debt support, housing and education.

We have also established a new Delivery and Oversight Board which met for the first time on 24 February 2021 to complement existing partnership arrangements and strengthened programme management across the entirety of the Together For Mental Health Strategy.

We have ensured there is an element of flexibility in this funding to enable us to respond to the impact of the pandemic as that becomes clearer during 2021.

Recommendation 14 - The Committee recommends that whilst tackling the increased levels of mental ill health linked to the pandemic, the Welsh Government ensures that investment is made in preventative measures which consider the wider determinants of mental health, such as skills and employability, education, housing, access to green space and physical activity.

Response: Accept.

We are working across government to further strengthen our response to the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on mental health. One of our key priority areas this year, for example, is further supporting crisis services, for which up to £6m has been made available.

The most disadvantaged people in Wales will experience the most severe financial impacts caused by the crisis. We expect the increased demand on advice services to continue and we are therefore providing an increase of £1.1m in funding for advice services so people can access free and impartial advice on debt, employment, income maximisations and welfare benefit issues.

Investment in social housing can play a key role in supporting a green recovery alongside delivering wider economic and societal impact. We are investing an additional £100m in our Social Housing programmes at final Budget, taking our total investment in the Social Housing Grant to nearly £250m in 2021-22, supporting jobs and training opportunities for Welsh SME builders and localised supply chains. That £100m investment has enabled us to extend and upscale the Optimised Retrofit Programme, bringing our investment in this programme to £50m in 2021-22. This will continue development of new skills, assessment tools, supply chains, and procurement frameworks that encourage SME development and create jobs.

Recommendation 15 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government clarifies how the funding for local government and education supports the current ways of learning and provides sufficient resources to address the negative impact of the pandemic on education, ensuring young people are not falling behind

Response: Accept

Providing local government with the best possible settlement has been central to our budget preparations again this year. In 2021-22 local authorities will receive £4.65 billion in core revenue funding and non-domestic rates, an increase of £172 million. While we recognise the pressures faced by local government it is hoped that this increase enables authorities to continue to support and deliver critical and valued front line services, including schools.

We have provided an additional £206.6m for the Local Government Hardship Fund for the first six months in the final Budget, which includes extended support for schools.

We also continue to provide significant additional grant funding over and above the core funding for schools through local authorities. Our overall investment in specific revenue grants to local authorities across our Education budget is over £400m for 2021-22.

We have also provided an additional £23.3m announced in the draft budget to extend free school meals in school holidays for the entirety of 2021-22.

We are providing an additional £12m funding in 2021-22 to recruit school staff to help, coach and mentor disadvantaged and vulnerable learners of all ages and ensure they get the help and support they need to catch up and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will also be investing a further £15m in to the Hwb EdTech digital transformation programme in 2021-22 to support the delivery of the Curriculum for Wales and the provision of remote learning.

Recommendation 16 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government clarifies whether the additional funding in the local government settlement is intended to support existing service delivery and what additional funding may be made available outside of the settlement.

Response: Accept

The majority of funding from the Welsh Government to local government – some £4.5billion – is allocated through the unhypothecated Local Government Settlement to support statutory and non-statutory delivery of services. The increase of £172m for 2021-22 on a like for like basis will support local authorities to meet inflationary and demand pressures. In addition, around £1 billion of specific grant funding is being maintained in 2021-22 and will be allocated to support identified local services. This early certainty on specific grant allocations will enable local authorities to plan their full range of services for the coming year. Local government will also benefit from a number of additional revenue and capital allocations set out in the draft budget.

Funding to support the additional costs and loss of income as a result of the pandemic has been provided separately via the Local Government Hardship Fund in 2020-21. In the final budget, the Fund has received an additional **£206.6m** for 6 months to extend support for a range of measures including Free School Meals, homelessness, school cleaning, enforcements, excess deaths, self-isolation payments, adult social care, care home testing, and Statutory Sick Pay.

We will continue to work closely with the WLGA and local authorities to understand what continued support for the Local Government response to the impacts of the covid 19 pandemic is required into 2021-22.

Recommendation 17 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government consider whether a funding floor for local government for the Final Budget would be suitable.

Response: Accept

In 2021-22, the core revenue funding for local government provides an increase by 3.8% on a like-for-like basis compared to the current year, representing a £172m year-on-year boost alongside the additional **£206.6m** for a 6 month extension of the Local Authority Hardship Fund.

Given the increased settlement for 2020-21, the proposed allocations announced for 2021-22, the decision was made not to include a funding floor for this year at draft budget. We have carefully considered all of the settlement consultation responses and, given the positive increase of at least 2% for all authorities we do not consider a floor is appropriate. If a floor is funded from within the resources available to the Settlement it means reductions for other authorities.

While we fully appreciate the pressures and challenges local government is facing, this settlement, along with the additional funding provided for the LA Hardship Fund in the final Budget, provides local authorities with a stable platform for planning their budgets for the forthcoming financial year. We will work with local authorities and the WLGA to monitor the situation as we progress throughout the year.

Recommendation 18 - The Committee recommends that as part of the Minister's consideration into further allocations being made in the Final Budget, the Welsh Government considers transitional funding for social care in 2021-22 so that providers are able to meet the ongoing additional costs in delivering their services during the pandemic.

Response: Accept

As a result of the additional support we have provided in 2020-21 we are not aware of a single care home closure in Wales as a result of the pandemic, and our financial support has enabled staff to focus on safety rather than money worries.

We have continued to monitor the ongoing impact of the pandemic on adult social care providers and the need for ongoing support. While we recognise that as a result of the progress of our vaccination programme, we expect infection rates in care homes to be much lower, it is clear that the sector faces many financial challenges. In the final budget we have therefore provided an additional £206.6m for a six months extension of the Local Authority Hardship fund to meet a range of costs, including funding for Adult Social Care.

Recommendation 19 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government monitors the impact of the pay award on individual local authorities, including the likely impact on their financial position and the delivery of services.

Response: Accept

While local authorities received an average 3.8% increase we have not received any additional funding through the Barnett formula to provide for public sector wide pay awards as a result of the UK Government's decision to introduce a public sector pay freeze. This decision is unfair and only reduces the funding available for pay in Wales and as a result we have no additional resource to fund pay increases in 2021-22. Any proposed pay award will therefore have to be met from within existing local authority resources, and local authorities will need to consider the impacts on their financial position and the delivery of services. We will continue to work with local authorities and Audit Wales to monitor overall financial stability of the sector and individual authorities.

Recommendation 20 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government provides information about the further work being undertaken on the impact of the pandemic on education when it becomes available.

Response: Accept

We are acutely aware of the significant challenges which are emerging for learners through the move to remote learning, and the disruption to teaching and learning through the last year.

To address this, we are working with our partners to co-develop a set of interventions and long term strategy which will support learners over the coming years to achieve their potential. This will explicitly recognise the importance of wellbeing and the motivation to learn, as well as the learning itself. It will also need to recognise the pressure on teachers and schools, as there will need to be space and capacity to support learners develop confidence and build knowledge, skills and experiences. We will provide the Committee with an update on the continuing work being undertaken and strategies for supporting learners when they become available. We anticipate discussions taking place until Easter and will look to publish our proposals after that.

Recommendation 21 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government's reconstruction plan is more ambitious in terms of policy and allocations and is addressed more substantially in the Final Budget, and subsequent Supplementary Budgets.

Response: Reject

In terms of ambition our 'Coronavirus Reconstruction Challenges and Priorities' plan, published by the Counsel General on 6 October 2020, was shaped by over 2,000 responses received from an open call for evidence. In addition, the Counsel General convened six round-tables with leading experts from Wales and across the world to ensure that the broadest possible evidence base could be drawn upon in the development of the Plan.

As outlined by the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd during scrutiny the immediate focus of the plan was to develop the priorities for reconstruction in the short term, guiding the £320m of reconstruction funding allocated in 2020-21.

The Minister also outlined that these eight priorities provided the foundation for a future recovery reflecting areas highlighted by people as priorities under a range of scenarios. This was demonstrated in our 2021-22 draft Budget with allocations against all eight priorities also underpinning our principles of protecting public health and the economy, building a greener future, and creating change for a fairer, more equal Wales.

Within the final budget we have also provided a £224.5m capital stimulus reflecting the role of infrastructure investment in stimulating economic demand in the short to medium term, while also improving the supply side of the economy in the longer term, and improving social and environmental outcomes.

This Budget therefore not only strikes the balance between being ambitious and delivering on our values, but also provides a strong foundation for the next administration to build on our progress in the months and years ahead.

Recommendation 22 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government considers whether existing regeneration programmes still represent best value and considers the need to be more focused on supporting growth and investment in skills and employability, particularly in terms of encouraging a sustainable green economy.

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government makes significant investment in regeneration programmes right across Wales. The draft Budget includes a capital budget for regeneration of over £40m, to support our commitment to ensuring that place-making, green recovery and fair work, underpinned by investment in people and digital transformation, is integral to all our decisions and activity.

The Economic Resilience and Reconstruction Mission, recently published by the Minister for Economy Transport and North Wales, reaffirms the “town centre first” principle. Our Transforming Towns programme focusses on ensuring the recovery of our town centres with a wider offer of activities and uses including flexible business space, leisure and local services linked to skills and job creation. As part of this recovery, we are allocating £16.5m to invest in apprenticeships, employability and skills and increasing the amount of education and training for jobs in expanding occupations and sectors through upskilling and reskilling.

We are also clear on the role that the public sector needs to play, which is why the draft Budget includes an allocation of £1.4m capital in 2021-22 to a pilot approach requiring public sector authorities to consider the need to put the health and vibrancy of town centres at the heart of their location strategies and investment decisions.

In addition, the final Budget includes a capital stimulus package of £224.5m, with a focus on stimulating growth and jobs in the construction industry and supply chain, in support of that ambition. This package includes an additional allocation of £3.5m to the Community Facilities Programme and a further £1m financial transactions capital to the Community Asset Loan Fund. This will support third sector organisations in purchasing and improving community assets, land and buildings, including those in town centres.

Recommendation 23 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government works to simplify the process for accessing business support packages and offers help and better signposting to smaller business, including a “no wrong door” approach for applicants. The Welsh Government should also consider a review of the communication methods for these schemes.

Response: Accept

Business Wales is the Welsh Government’s bilingual business support service that was launched in January 2013 and refreshed in January 2016. The service provides a single point of contact for business information, advice and support from the public, private and voluntary sectors. This single contact makes it easier for Welsh micro-businesses and SMEs including social enterprises, and aspiring entrepreneurs of all ages to access the information, advice and support they require to start and grow their businesses.

The Business Wales website provides access to a wide range of information, advice and guidance in one place. In addition to telephone and email support, Business Wales provides a bilingual ‘live-chat’ function for users of the website and acts as a gateway for a variety of different Welsh Government business support services, including WEFO, Farming Connect, Skills Gateway and the Transport for Wales Supplier Champion.

We have worked to simplify the system and continually improve access for accessing business support packages. In the current round of Covid restrictions, funding allocated under the Economic Resilience Fund (ERF) is paid directly to businesses once a simple online registration/application has been completed. Over 90% of ERF funding has reached SME businesses quickly. Any individual who has limited digital accessibility can contact the Helpline for wider options and access to support.

Through the pandemic Business Wales has received more than 8 million visits to the website and dealt with nearly 50,000 enquires. The mediums for accessing support are regularly reviewed and refined taking on feedback from customers, partners and stakeholders. A range of activities are used to promote access to the service including press releases, client case studies, radio, digital and written press, billboards and train/buses. We also utilise our stakeholder networks to raise awareness, such as working closely with local authorities on the non-domestic rates linked grants, representative bodies including the FSB through their membership, and Business Wales contractors who deliver the core support service and the Enterprise Hubs.

The Business Wales Strategic Board consists of representatives from the IoD, FSB, small business and social enterprise sector who champion the Business Wales service and promote the offer.

Recommendation 24 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government identifies how the pandemic has changed, or reaffirmed, its priorities in terms of digital connectivity. Changes in this respect should be highlighted in the Final Budget.

Response: Accept in principle

The pandemic has underscored the importance of digital connectivity. We are currently developing a new Digital Strategy for Wales, which sets out our ambitions to harnesses digital, data, technology and AI for the good of people in Wales. Whilst digital connectivity is not a devolved matter, the Welsh Government has already provided vital digital connectivity to homes and businesses across Wales.

Through this budget we are providing £10m to local authorities and social enterprises to support broadband projects in areas not currently served with superfast broadband in addition to the £56m for the next phase of broadband roll out. We are also providing £4.9m in 2021-22 for the Centre for Digital Public Services, which will drive innovation and user centred design in digital public services in Wales, supporting specialised training programmes and digital squads.

We are in discussion with the UK Government to clarify future spend in Wales arising from its £5bn programme to deliver gigabit connectivity to all premises in the UK. We will continue to monitor the case for further investment as we progress through the financial year.

Recommendation 25 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government identify how spend in the Draft Budget on town centres takes advantage of the opportunities arising from the pandemic (e.g. maximising homeworking).

Response: Accept

Our whole Transforming Towns agenda is supporting our town centres to reimagine and reinvent themselves and seize any opportunities to help them thrive and become more sustainable. As a result of the pandemic we recognise the need to ensure we can increase footfall and accessibility and make a vital contribution to our town centres by locating public bodies, partner organisations and associated services and facilities in them to in turn support regeneration and economic activity, increase footfall, broaden the range of services available, and bring well-being, social and environmental benefits.

Many of the projects we already support as part of our £110 million Transforming Towns investment are targeted at providing co-working spaces and we are linking this work very closely with our remote working policy.

The Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government's Ministerial Town Centre Action Group is ensuring that any new ideas and opportunities arising from the pandemic are brought to the table from a range of experts and policy leads.

Recommendation 26 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government demonstrates how it has changed its approach to climate emergency spend in light of the pandemic and how it intends to maintain the flexibility to adapt to behavioural changes in fulfilling its objective of building a 'greener future'.

Response: Accept

We have been clear that economic reconstruction and our action on climate change are not mutually exclusive. We need to deliver the green recovery that will sustain Wales into the future. There are specific additional allocations within the draft budget - £80m of capital and £17m of revenue funding – to directly support climate change measures. This is on top of the funding already carried forward from previous years including the £140m 'green' capital package announced in last year's Budget and our extensive public transport investments to name but a few. We have gone further still in our final Budget – for example by increasing capital investment in our Optimised Retrofit Programme in 2021-22 to £50m

The Future Generations Commissioner has noted in her indicative analysis of the 2020- 21 draft budget that key spending lines related to decarbonisation has risen by approximately 28% year on year, suggesting good progress in tackling the climate emergency.

However, we recognise the need to maintain flexibility to respond rapidly to behavioural change and emerging evidence. We have recently received further advice from the UKCCC, who are clear on the current evidence that there is a credible, feasible and affordable path to net zero for Wales by 2050. We are currently reviewing this advice, and how our future budgetary plans can help to deliver on that pathway.

Recommendation 27 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government prioritises developing a comprehensive assessment of the carbon impact of its spending decisions and considers how it can overcome the limitations identified.

Response: Accept

We have taken significant steps in improving our understanding of carbon impact of our spending decisions in this Budget round. Both the indicative assessment published alongside the draft Budget, and the wider analysis published as part of the final Budget documentation provide us with the basis from which to build our understanding of emissions that are associated with goods and services that are purchased through the Welsh Government's budgets. These steps have been recognised by the Future Generations Commissioner, who welcomed the fact that the Welsh Government have commenced a programme of work to better understand the level of carbon emissions that result from budgetary decisions.

We acknowledge that are limitation to this analysis, and there is more to be done in assessing and quantifying the carbon emissions or savings associated with the behavioural outcomes arising from Welsh Government spending as well at the spending itself. Such assessments will need to be undertaken by departments when developing spending proposals, and then considered as part of budgetary decisions.

However, as the Welsh Government set out in last year's budget, assessing the broader carbon impact of financing Welsh Government policies through the budget is not always a straightforward task. For example, we are continuing to invest in in developing the electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Wales. The impact this investment will have is closely linked to the uptake of electric vehicles more generally, which in turn is dependent on the regulatory choices that the UK Government makes in terms of restricting traditional petrol and diesel vehicles.

Recommendation 28 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government improves communication of financial assistance schemes and reviews the application processes to ease access to support, particularly for vulnerable applicants, with consideration given to implementing a “no wrong door” approach for applicants.

Response: Accept

Welsh Ministers have agreed a series of practical actions in response to the acute financial pressures many families are now experiencing as a result of the pandemic. These actions are set out in our [Income Maximisation Action Plan](#). Under the plan, we are supporting a range of activity to help families in Wales to claim all the support they are entitled to, including development of a ‘no wrong door’ approach through a more integrated system of support which promotes warm referrals between agencies. We are also developing guidance for adopting ‘single entry points’ to support, linking across key agencies, services and employability programmes.

We are also working with Citizens Advice through the Single Advice Fund (SAF) to encourage people to access and engage effectively with Advice Partners to identify, support and resolve their problems and improve their financial resilience. Our Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) provides emergency payments to anyone aged 16 and over who is experiencing extreme financial hardship. The scheme is supported by a network of more than 570 front-line organisations who are actively engaged in awareness raising and are key to ensuring this support reaches those it is intended to help. We are providing an additional £10.5m for the first six months of 2021-22 to continue the current relaxation of DAF rules to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on households suffering extreme financial hardship, alongside measures aimed at maximising household income and improving financial resilience.

We are committed to raising awareness of the Fund, promoting take up via partners such as local authorities, food banks and social media to ensure that everything is done to identify and reach target groups.

Recommendation 29 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government considers how it can improve the relationship between the distributional analysis of public spending in Wales and the prevention agenda.

Response: Accept in principle

The purpose of this analysis is to investigate who benefits from public spending on health, education and social care for the elderly. In particular, this work looks at the impact of public spending on households across the income distribution. As well as providing some broad results for Wales, this work has enabled the Welsh Government to explore the strengths and weaknesses of such analysis.

This form of analysis has the potential to play a part in future Welsh Government budgets. The aim is to incorporate it in the suite of information accompanying future budgets. Its capacity to inform budgetary decisions will depend on the availability of data in specific areas.

The Welsh Government will continue to advance the modelling with a view to improving and extending the analysis where possible. This work will include considering how the analysis can be extended to look at different groups of people and cover more areas of public spending.

We will consider how we can improve the relationship between the distributional analysis of public spending in Wales and the prevention agenda, but the nature of spending on the prevention agenda is likely to mean that establishing a clear and measurable relationship between expenditure and future beneficiaries is complex and challenging.

Recommendation 30 - The Committee recommends that future Strategic Integrated Impact Assessments are strengthened to explain how the causes of poverty and varying impacts on different groups and needs are influencing the Welsh Government's spending allocations.

Response: Accept

We remain committed to reviewing how we take an integrated approach to assess the impacts of the draft budget through the Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment as demonstrated by the steps we took in the 2021-22 Draft Budget to improve the way we present the impact of our spending decisions in the budget including the summary provided of evidence about the disproportionate impacts by different protected characteristics, including by gender, race and socio-economic disadvantage, with accompanying footnotes to relevant evidence sources.

As set out in our Budget Improvement Plan, we are committed to improving our processes around how we prioritise our spending proposals. As part of this we will reflect in future budgets how we can take further steps to more-explicitly highlight how specific spending allocations respond to poverty and the varying impacts on different groups.

Recommendation 31 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government sets out how it will undertake a more gender sensitive approach to its future budgets and demonstrates how spending and policy decisions are informed by the impact on gender and other groups, particularly given the evidence that the economic impact of the pandemic will disproportionately affect certain groups.

Response: Accept

We welcome the Committee's acknowledge of the positive results of the Personal Learning Account gender budgeting pilot and its influence on this year's allocation. As outlined in our Budget Improvement Plan, we are committed to build on our pilot approach by taking a 'gender focussed' approach in other policy areas in future budgets. In doing so we will consider policy areas where there is evidence of a disproportionate impact on certain groups, and how any findings can inform Welsh Government's spending and policy decisions in those areas.

It is also important to recognise that our approach has been developed through engagement with the Icelandic Government who are recognised as international leaders on gender budgeting. They too initially took a pilot approach within specific policy areas, as this was a crucial way to demonstrate the value of gender budgeting. However they have acknowledged this was not a quick process, taking seven years from the initial pilots building towards a comprehensive implementation that was supported by passing a new 'organic budget law'.

Recommendation 32 - The Committee recommends that the Finance Minister provides a brief update on the impact of the revised OBR forecasts that will be published with the UK Budget during the Final Budget debate on 9 March.

Response: Accept

The Minister for Finance and Trefnydd will provide an update during the final Budget Debate on 9 March on the revised OBR forecasts to be published alongside the UK Government's Budget on 3 March.

Recommendation 33 - The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government provides further detail of discussions held with the Chief Secretary of the Treasury on funding relating to pillar transfer and undertakes an impact assessment on the effects that a reduction in overall funding available to agriculture will have on farming and the wider rural economy.

Response: Accept

The Minister for Finance and Trefnydd has written to the Chief Secretary of the Treasury on multiple occasions to outline our deep concern with the replacement farm funding announced in the Spending Review, which leaves farmers and rural communities in Wales short-changed by £137m.

On 27 November, the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd wrote to the Chief Secretary of the Treasury to review the decision for a pillar transfer, and request the level of farm funding for 2020-21, is revised to include this £42m. The Minister for Finance and Trefnydd raised the issue again in a meeting with the Chief Secretary of the Treasury in December. It has been confirmed through the Supplementary Estimates process that the request for the pillar transfer has been rejected. This fails to recognise that the decision to take a 15% pillar transfer for rural development was procedural to meet EU obligations to notify it of the proportion of our domestic replacement 2020-21 CAP budget we would carry forward to 2021-22 to invest in wider rural development.

On 21 December the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs announced she would be prioritising funding for farmers, reflecting the additional strain placed on the industry by EU Exit and Covid-19. The total direct payment ceiling will be set £238m to provide the same level of direct payments to farmers in 2021, as was provided in 2020. Had the UK Government replaced EU funding in full, Wales would have been better placed to invest in our domestic rural development programme. We will now prioritise using the limited rural development funding for 2021-22 to develop a programme which will target investment in future years on post-EU Exit and Covid Recovery to support our rural communities and environment.

Alongside this we have allocated £2.6m to deliver the start of the new post-EU funded farm support programme and the BEW review recommendations, alongside delivering the remaining commitments under the existing EU funded schemes up to 2023.

Recommendation 34 - The Committee notes the efforts made by the Welsh Government to engage with the UK Government on the UK Share Prosperity Fund, and recommends that an update is provided on how future funding will be allocated and what role the Welsh Government will have in the process.

Response: Accept

The UK Government has not meaningfully engaged with Welsh Government on the Shared Prosperity Fund thus far. Initial proposals for a prospectus for the pilot scheme in the New Year have now been pushed back to March, and UK Government has given no indication as to what the methods of funding allocation or role of Welsh Government will be.

The UK-level framework for the future of the fund has also been delayed until the summer, from the original commitment to publish in spring. The Secretary of State for Wales on 25 November indicated a meeting would follow between Counsel General and Minister for European Transition and UK Communities and Pensions Secretaries to discuss investment priorities and delivery structures for the Shared Prosperity Fund. No such invitation has been forthcoming as of yet.

We have also seen the UK Government announce it will use its powers under the Internal Market Act to spend in devolved areas through its Levelling up Fund instead of Wales receiving its fair share of funding through the Barnett formula as was indicated in the Spending Review. In practice, this will mean that the UK Government is taking decisions on devolved matters in Wales without being answerable to the Senedd on behalf of the people of Wales which we view as an aggressive and unconstitutional undermining of devolution.

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 4

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

Document is Restricted

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-RE-0943-21

Elin Jones MS
Llywydd
Senedd Cymru

3 March 2021

Dear Llywydd,

The Land Transaction Tax (Temporary Variation of Rates and Bands for Residential Property Transactions) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2021

I have today made the Land Transaction Tax (Temporary Variation of Rates and Bands for Residential Property Transactions) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 under sections 24(1) and 78(1) of the Land Transaction Tax and Anti-avoidance of Devolved Taxes (Wales) Act 2017 ('the 2017 Act') which comes into force on 1 April 2021. I attach a copy of the statutory instrument and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum, which I intend to lay once the statutory instrument has been registered.

In accordance with the procedure set out in sections 25(2) of the 2017 Act, this instrument must be approved by the Senedd within 28 days of it being made, not including days when the Senedd is in recess of four days or more or dissolved, in order for it to remain in effect. In these circumstances I understand Standing Order 21.4A is relevant and the Business Committee may establish and publish a timetable for the responsible committee or committees to report. It may be helpful to know that I intend to hold the plenary debate for this item of subordinate legislation on 23 March 2021.

I am copying this letter to Mick Antoniw MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Llyr Gruffydd MS, Chair of the Finance Committee, Siwan Davies, Director of Senedd Business, Sian Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Services and Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

Agenda Item 5

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

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

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

Document is Restricted