Agenda - Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Hybrid - Committee room 4 Ty Hywel and video conference via Zoom	**Owain Roberts**
Meeting date: 22 June 2022	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 11.00	0300 200 6388
	SeneddFinance@senedd.wales

Private pre-meeting - Informal (10.30-11.00)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(11.00)

2 Paper(s) to note

(11.00) (Pages 1 - 13)

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2022

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2022

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2022

2.1 PTN 1 - Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Budget timetable - 31 May 2022

(Page 14)

2.2 PTN 2 - Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Budget improvement plan - 1 June 2022

(Page 15)

2.3 PTN 3 - Letter from the Senedd Commission: Financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic - update as at 31 March 2022 - 13 June 2022

(Pages 16 - 23)

2.4 PTN 4 - Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Finance Inter-ministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) - 14 June 2022

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2.5 PTN 5 – Letter from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language: Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill – Revised Regulatory Impact Assessment – 14 June 2022

(Pages 25 – 28)

3 Post-EU funding arrangements: Evidence session 3

(11.00-12.30) (Pages 29 – 53)

Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government

Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Economy

Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs, and North Wales and Trefnydd

Sarah Govier, Head of Intergovernmental Relations

Peter Ryland, Chief Executive, Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO)

Gian Marco Currado, Director, Environment & Marine

Supporting documents:

FIN(6)-14-22 P1 – Welsh Government

Research Service Brief

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

(12.30)

5 Post-EU funding arrangements: Consideration of evidence

(12.30-12.40)

6 Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) on the UK Infrastructure Bank Bill

(12.40-12.45) (Pages 54 – 70)

Supporting documents:

FIN(6)-14-22 P2 – LCM on the UK Infrastructure Bank Bill

FIN(6)-14-22 P3 – LCM timetable: UK Infrastructure Bank Bill

Legal advice note

Concise Minutes - Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

Video Conference via Zoom

Meeting date: Wednesday, 11 May 2022

Meeting time: 09.30 - 12.30

This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at: http://senedd.tv/en/12826

Remote

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Peredur Owen Griffiths MS (Chair) Peter Fox MS Mike Hedges MS
Witnesses:	Dr Chris Llewelyn, Welsh Local Government Association Dr Tim Peppin, Welsh Local Government Association Ed Poole, Wales Governance Centre Guto Ifan, Wales Governance Centre David Phillips, Institute for Fiscal Studies Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales, Audit Wales, Auditor General for Wales, Audit Wales Lindsay Foyster, Audit Wales Kevin Thomas, Audit Wales
Committee Staff:	Owain Roberts (Clerk) Leanne Hatcher (Second Clerk) Georgina Owen (Second Clerk) Mike Lewis (Deputy Clerk)

	Owen Holzinger (Researcher) Joanne McCarthy (Researcher)

Private pre-meeting - Informal (09.15-09.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the virtual meeting of the Finance Committee.

1.2 Apologies were received from Rhianon Passmore MS.

2 Paper(s) to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

2.1 PTN 1 – Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022-23: Welsh Government response to the Finance Committee's report – 4 March 2022

2.2 PTN 2 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Financial Transactions Capital allocations – 28 February 2022

2.3 PTN 3 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Further information on issues raised during the session on the second supplementary budget – 23 March 2022

2.4 PTN 4 – Welsh Government Second Supplementary Budget 2021-22: Welsh Government response to the Finance Committee's report – 26 April 2022

2.5 PTN 5 – Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill: Welsh Government response to the Finance Committee's report – 29 March 2022

2.6 PTN 6 – Letter from PCS Union: Use of 'fire and rehire' by Welsh public sector bodies – 25 April 2022

2.7 PTN 7 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Budget Improvement Impact Advisory Group (BIIAG) – 25 March 2022

2.8 PTN 8 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Budget Improvement Impact Advisory Group (BIIAG) – 27 April 2022

2.9 PTN 9 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Draft Public Audit (Amendment) Wales Bill – 3 March 2022

2.10 PTN 10 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Draft Public Audit (Amendment) (Wales) Bill – 6 April 2022

2.11 PTN 11 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Finance Inter-ministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) – 11 March 2022

2.12 PTN 12 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Finance Inter-ministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) – 5 April 2022

2.13 PTN 13 – Letter from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to the Chair of Local Government and Housing Committee: Casework trends and complaint handling practices of Local Authorities – 8 March 2022

2.14 PTN 14 – Letter from the Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee: Annual scrutiny of the Future Generations Commissioner: update report – 11 April 2022

2.15 PTN 15 – Joint evidence from tourism industry bodies: Non Domestic Rating Order 2022 – 8 April 2022

2.16 PTN 16 – Letter from the Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd: Use of the term BAME – 15 Feb 2022

2.17 PTN 17 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government – Welsh Tax Acts etc. (Power to Modify) Bill – 22 April 2022

2.18 PTN 18 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Approach to the publication of supplementary budgets during 2022-23 – 4 May 2022

3 Post-EU funding arrangements: Evidence session 1

3.1 The Committee took evidence from Chris Llewelyn, Chief Executive, Welsh Local Government Association; and Tim Peppin, Director of Regeneration and Sustainable Development, Welsh Local Government Association on Post-EU funding arrangements.

Break (10.15-10.25)

4 Post-EU funding arrangements: Evidence session 2

4.1 The Committee took evidence from Dr Ed Poole, Senior Lecturer, Wales Governance Centre (Wales Fiscal Analysis), Guto Ifan, Research Associate, Wales Governance Centre

(Wales Fiscal Analysis); and David Phillips, Associate Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies on Post-EU funding arrangements.

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting and the meeting on 18 May 2022.

5.1 The motion was agreed.

6 Post-EU funding arrangements: Consideration of evidence

6.1 The Committee considered the evidence.

7 Audit Wales: Estate Strategy and Five Year Strategic Plan

7.1 Audit Wales officials provided the Committee with an update on Audit Wales's Estate Strategy and Five Year Strategic Plan.

8 First Supplementary Budget 2022-23: Directly Funded Bodies

8.1 The Committee considered the supplementary estimates of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales; and the Senedd Commission. The Committee agreed to write to the Senedd Commission to request further information on its estimate.

9 Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2023-24: Stakeholder event

9.1 The Committee considered the paper on the stakeholder event.

Concise Minutes - Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

Hybrid - Committee room 4 Ty Hywel

and video conference via Zoom (Private)

Meeting date: Wednesday, 18 May 2022

Meeting time: 10.00 - 12.00

Hybrid, private

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Peredur Owen Griffiths MS (Chair) Peter Fox MS Mike Hedges MS
Witnesses:	Matt Wellington, Welsh Government Andrew Johnson, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Owain Roberts (Clerk) Leanne Hatcher (Second Clerk) Mike Lewis (Deputy Clerk) Martin Jennings (Researcher) Owen Holzinger (Researcher) Louis Dawson (Researcher)

At its meeting on 11 May, the Committee agreed a motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to exclude the public from today's meeting

Registration (09.45-10.00)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the hybrid meeting of the Finance Committee.

1.2 Apologies were received from Rhianon Passmore MS.

2 Technical briefing with Welsh Government officials: Budget Improvement Plan

2.1 The Committee received a technical briefing from the Welsh Government officials.

3 Interparliamentary Finance Committee Forum

3.1 The Committee considered the paper on the Interparliamentary Finance Committee Forum.

4 Consideration of Forward Work Programme

4.1 The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme.

5 Post-EU funding arrangements: Summary of evidence

4.1 Senedd Research officials provided Members with a summary of the evidence submitted to the Committee's consultation on Post-EU funding arrangements.

Concise Minutes - Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 4 - Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: Thursday, 9 June 2022

Meeting time: 10.00 - 11.08

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

http://senedd.tv/en/12862

On-site

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Peredur Owen Griffiths MS (Chair) Peter Fox MS Mike Hedges MS Rhianon Passmore MS
Witnesses:	Llyr Gruffydd MS Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government Andrew Hewitt, Welsh Government Lynsey Edwards, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Owain Roberts (Clerk) Georgina Owen (Second Clerk) Leanne Hatcher (Second Clerk) Mike Lewis (Deputy Clerk) Ben Harris (Legal Adviser) Christian Tipples (Researcher) Owen Holzinger (Researcher)

Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

Private pre-meeting - Informal (09:30-10:00)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the Finance Committee.

2 Welsh Tax Acts etc. (Power to Modify) Bill: Stage 2 - Consideration of amendments

Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government, Member in charge

Andrew Hewitt, Head of Tax Legislation, Welsh Treasury

Lynsey Edwards, Legal Services, Welsh Government

Llyr Gruffydd MS, Plaid Cymru Spokesperson on Finance and Local Government

2.1 In accordance with Standing Order 26.21, the Committee disposed of the following amendments to the Bill:

Amendment 7 (Llyr Gruffydd MS)

In Favour	Against	Abstain
Peter Fox	Mike Hedges	
Peredur Owen Griffiths	Rhianon Passmore	
As there was an equality of votes, the Chair used his casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20(ii). **Amendment 7 was not agreed.**		

Amendment 8 (Llyr Gruffydd MS)

In Favour	Against	Abstain
Peter Fox	Mike Hedges	

Peredur Owen Griffiths	Rhianon Passmore	
As there was an equality of votes, the Chair used his casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20(ii). **Amendment 8 was not agreed.**		

Amendment 9 (Llyr Gruffydd MS)

In Favour	**Against**	**Abstain**
Peter Fox	Mike Hedges	
Peredur Owen Griffiths	Rhianon Passmore	
As there was an equality of votes, the Chair used his casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20(ii). **Amendment 9 was not agreed.**		

Amendment 10 (Llyr Gruffydd MS)

In Favour	**Against**	**Abstain**
Peter Fox	Mike Hedges	
Peredur Owen Griffiths	Rhianon Passmore	
As there was an equality of votes, the Chair used his casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20(ii). **Amendment 10 was not agreed.**		

Amendment 12 (Peter Fox MS)

In Favour	**Against**	**Abstain**
Peter Fox	Mike Hedges	

Peredur Owen Griffiths	Rhianon Passmore	
As there was an equality of votes, the Chair used his casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20(ii). Amendment 12 was not agreed.		

Amendment 20 (Llyr Gruffydd MS) was not moved.

Amendment 21 (Llyr Gruffydd MS) was not moved.

Amendment 13 (Peter Fox MS)

In Favour	**Against**	**Abstain**
Peter Fox	Mike Hedges	
Peredur Owen Griffiths	Rhianon Passmore	
As there was an equality of votes, the Chair used his casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20(ii). Amendment 13 was not agreed.		

Amendment 1 (Rebecca Evans MS)

In Favour	**Against**	**Abstain**
Mike Hedges		Peter Fox
Rhianon Passmore		Peredur Owen Griffiths
Amendment 1 was agreed.		

As amendment 1 was agreed, amendment 14 fell.

Amendment 15 (Peter Fox MS) was not moved.

Amendment 16 (Peter Fox MS)

In Favour	Against	Abstain
Peter Fox	Mike Hedges	
Peredur Owen Griffiths	Rhianon Passmore	
As there was an equality of votes, the Chair used his casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20(ii). Amendment 16 was not agreed.		

Amendment 2 (Rebecca Evans MS)

In Favour	Against	Abstain
Mike Hedges		Peter Fox
Rhianon Passmore		Peredur Owen Griffiths
Amendment 2 was agreed.		

Amendment 11 (Llyr Gruffydd MS) was withdrawn in accordance with Standing Order 26.66(i).

Amendment 17 (Peter Fox MS)

In Favour	Against	Abstain
Peter Fox	Mike Hedges	
Peredur Owen Griffiths	Rhianon Passmore	
As there was an equality of votes, the Chair used his casting vote in accordance with Standing Order 6.20(ii). Amendment 17 was not agreed.		

Amendment 3 (Rebecca Evans MS) was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 17.34(i).

Amendment 4 (Rebecca Evans MS) was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 17.34(i).

Amendment 18 (Peter Fox MS) was not moved.

Amendment 19 (Peter Fox MS) was not moved.

Amendment 5 (Rebecca Evans MS) was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 17.34(i).

Amendment 6 (Rebecca Evans MS)

In Favour	**Against**	**Abstain**
Mike Hedges		Peter Fox
Rhianon Passmore		Peredur Owen Griffiths
Amendment 6 was agreed.		

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

3.1 The motion was agreed.

4 First Supplementary Budget 2022-23: Audit Wales

4.1 The Committee noted the supplementary estimate of Audit Wales.

5 Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill: Financial implications

5.1 The Committee considered the Research Service Brief on the financial implications of the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: RE/704/2022

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru

31 May 2022

Dear Peredur,

As you will be aware under Standing Order 20, the Minister with responsibility for Senedd business is required to write to the Business Committee two weeks before the end of the summer term to set out a timetable for when the draft Budget will be laid. In advance of this I am writing to seek a discussion in relation to the timetable for the 2023-24 Budget.

It was positive that the UK Government's multi-year spending review published in November 2021 made it possible for the Welsh Government to publish a three-year Budget up to 2024-25. However, we have subsequently seen the economic context worsen significantly with inflation forecast to reach 10% later this year. In practice our budget for the next three years is now worth at least £600m less than when we formulated our spending plans last year, and the reduction in spending power is likely to be a lot greater than that.

Despite recent announcements from the UK Government, there has also been no recognition of this changed context to our 2023-24 settlement. We are, therefore, highly dependent over the timing and outcome of any UK Autumn Fiscal event; we are currently unclear about the exact timings and quantum which will naturally impact our Budget preparations.

This leaves us facing an unchanged settlement facing significant pressures, alongside significant uncertainties over our prospects until an undefined point in the Autumn. In this context I would welcome a discussion with you on the options that face us and to seek the Committee's recommendation on a timetable for this year's Budget.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: RE/705/2022

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru

1 June 2022

Dear Peredur,

Thank you for your letter. I am pleased my officials were able to provide a technical briefing, and hope this provided further insights into work on budget and tax process improvements. I also hope we can continue to engage with you and the Finance Committee closely on this important area of work.

I welcome the recognition of the distinction between the work related to budget improvement and a wider review of the Senedd's budgetary processes and recognise the need for such discussions on the latter to be undertaken between Senedd and Welsh Government.

I look forward to picking up this discussion with you once our officials have been able to explore this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
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Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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13 June 2022

Dear Peredur

Financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic – update as at 31 March 2022

Further to my letter dated 2 February 2022 responding to your committee's Report on the Scrutiny of the Senedd Commission Draft Budget 2022-2023, I'm pleased to be able to provide a final update in relation to Recommendation 5.

Recommendation 5. The Committee recommends that the Commission continues to provide periodical reports during the rest of the 2021-22 financial year on in-year costs and savings related to the impact of COVID-19.

This letter provides an update, as at 31 March 2022, detailing the impact Covid-19 has had on the 2021-22 financial position, including any savings and extra costs. I have provided this information in the attached annex.

If there is any further information your Committee would like to have, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely

Ken Skates MS

cc Senedd Commissioners, Manon Antoniazzi, Nia Morgan
Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

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Annex 1

Recommendation 5. The Committee recommends that the Commission continues to provide periodical reports during the rest of the 2021-22 financial year on in-year costs and savings related to the impact of COVID-19.

The following note provides the Committee with a summary of the costs and savings related to the impact of COVID-19. It covers the following:

1. Impact on the Annual Leave Provision and staff wellbeing
2. Impact on the level of vacancies, turnover and capacity constraints.
3. Impact on Service Area Budgets – general non-staff expenditure
4. Impact on the Project Fund
5. Impact on the funding provided to the Commission to fulfil the obligations of the Remuneration Board's Determination on Members' Pay and Allowances.

1. Impact on the Annual Leave Provision and staff wellbeing

As highlighted in a previous letter, International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 - Employee Benefits requires the Commission to accrue for the cost of any unused leave entitlement accrued by Commission staff at 31 March in each financial year.

The provision as at 31 March 2020 was around £800k (representing 6.9 days of annual leave and 2 days of flexible leave accrued by each member of Commission staff). By 31 March 2021 this provision was around £1.3 million (an extra provision of £0.5m), as a result of certain staff not being able to take leave and others who have not wanted to take leave during the pandemic in 2020-21.

This higher than normal level of untaken leave continued into 2021-22; however, where we could have expected this provision to reduce, this was not the case by mid-year (September 2021).
An amount of £150k was therefore ringfenced within the budget (i.e. not used for other purposes) to mitigate against the risk of any further increase in the level of untaken leave.

The actual provision required at 31 March 2022 was however lower than at 31 March 2021, following an active encouragement for staff to take annual leave in the recess week leading up to Christmas 2021. The 2021-22 year-end calculation released £100k from the provision for accrued annual leave, resulting in £250k of unutilised budget within the staffing cost budget at 31 March 2022.

Table 1

	31-Mar-20 £'000	31-Mar-21 £'000	31-Mar-22 £'000
Provision at year end	£800	£1,300	£1,200
Increase/(Decrease)		£500	(£100)

The provision for untaken annual leave remains higher than normal/pre-pandemic and this continues to be actively addressed to ensure the wellbeing of staff.

2. Impact of increased vacancies, turnover and capacity constraints.

As noted in a previous letter (2 February 2022) the uncertainty of the pandemic has resulted, during the past 18 months, in a reduced turnover of staff. Naturally as the pandemic has continued, the Commission is once again experiencing a return to more normal levels i.e. an increased turnover. This increase, combined with a number of other factors, led to an increased level of vacancies to be filled during the second half of 2021-22 and this has continued into 2022-23, adding to the increasing pressure on Commission staff. The increased level of vacancies resulted in around £700k of unutilised staffing budget.

Alongside an increased level of turnover, other factors contributing to the high level of vacancies, include:

- specific posts temporarily frozen during the past two years as a result of reduced services during Covid which have now been released for recruitment,
- posts temporarily frozen pending the election and resulting Commission strategy, being released for recruitment,
- new additional posts created to support the new capacity pressures arising from hybrid ways of working, increasing cyber and physical security threats, increasing information governance and health and safety demands and new Committee structures,
- a shortage of applicants in difficult to recruit posts, for example fixed term posts and sought-after specialisms such as business analysts and data analytics, and;
- Executive Board decision to reduce the pace of recruitment in some areas to ensure that new capacity requirements in 2022-23 are affordable.

Executive Board are working actively with recruiting managers to prioritise vacancies, flex existing internal resource where possible, and focus resourcing efforts in those areas which present particular market difficulties.

3. Impact on Service Area Budgets – general expenditure

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the general day-to-day expenditure of the Commission has been varied during 2020-21 and 2021-22 and the table below provides information on areas where activity has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels i.e. the table shows the variance between the original budget and actual expenditure (not the actual expenditure).

Table 2 – Reduced costs or savings against Service Budgets

Savings against Budget	2020-21 £	2021-22 £
Reduced Utility costs	130,000	125,000
Police and Security Costs	175,000	72,000
Staff travel Costs	150,000	121,000
Member related Commission expenditure*	168,000	168,000
External translation costs	47,000	76,000
Education and Events	78,000	202,000
Printing and Postage	117,000	222,000
Hospitality	31,000	22,000
Training and Recruitment	89,000	-
Total	**985,000**	**1,008,000**

*includes e.g. Member training, stationery and international engagement costs. All are funded from the Commission's operational budget.

The following table provides an overview of other items that have impacted the 2021-22 service budgets, resulting in a net reduction in service area expenditure of £792,000.

Table 3

	2021-22 £
Savings against budget as per Table 4	**(1,008,000)**
Depreciation	(150,000)
Expenditure greater than budget:	
• Cleaning	26,000
• Cloud services	118,000
• Consultancy and legal costs	49,000
• Archiving	29,000
• Broadband	55,000
• Recruitment	24,000
• Planned/reactive maintenance	37,000
Reduced income - net of costs	28,000
Total	**792,000**

4. Impact on the Project Fund

The 2021-22 Budget highlighted £0.96 million of expenditure to be funded from the Commission's Project Fund. The 2021-22 project fund budget was set at a lower level than in 2020-21 and 2022-23 (£1.515 and £1.5 million respectively) in order to contain the Commission operational budget increase to within 1%. The actual expenditure on the project fund during 2021-22 was £1.965m. This increase was funded from the net COVID-19 related savings noted in Table 3.

Table 4 – Covid Impact on Project Fund Budget

	Budget 2021-22	Actual 2021-22
Project Fund 2021-22	**Amount £'000**	**Amount £'000**
Legislative Workbench Software	£240	£240
Engagement and Outreach Activities	£200	£41
EFM Project Expenditure	£245	£423
Physical Security Enhancements	-	£101
Sustainability Enhancements **(See Table 5)**	-	£323
Fire door replacements	-	£111
ICT Project Expenditure	£275	£217
Finance System Upgrade	-	£144
Commission Laptop cyclical renewal – b/f from 2022-23	-	£365
Total	**£960**	**£1,965**
Increase		**£1,005**

Early identification of underutilisation of the:

- engagement and outreach project fund budget,
- the budget areas noted in table 3 above, and
- the staffing costs budget

during 2021-22, led the Commission to cautiously consider whether the available funds could be prioritised elsewhere.

Reallocation of these funds enabled the additional security, sustainability and finance system enhancements (shown in table 4) to proceed without the requirement for a supplementary budget and also enabled the Commission laptop replacement project to be accelerated from 2022-23 to pre-empt any inflationary price rises and/or delays and shortages.

The Commission also noted and responded promptly to the Finance Committee's recommendation, included in its Report on the Scrutiny of the Senedd Commission Draft Budget 2022-2023:

Recommendation 8. The Committee recommends that the Commission prioritises and implements changes associated with its Carbon Neutral Strategy 2021-2030 that are simple and cost-effective at the earliest opportunity.

The Commission accelerated expenditure on sustainability related initiatives earmarked for 2022-23, during 2021-22. Items included:

Table 5

Description	**2021-22**
Additional Electric Vehicle Charging points	£15,000
UPS Battery Replacements	£18,000
Solar Photovoltaic Installation – Feasibility Study	£20,000
Ty Hywel LED's Phase 4	£105,000
Ty Hywel LED's Phase 5	£105,000
Ty Hywel Heating Improvements	£60,000
Total	**£323,000**

In summary, a net amount of £792k (Table 3) was released from the non-staff service area budgets; £950k was also released from the staffing budget, giving a total of £1.7 million.

This £1.7 million was used partly to supplement the lower level of project funding initially allocated in 2022-23 (£1 million, Table 4) and the remaining amount (£700k) remained unutilised at 31 March 2022. The Commission is unable to carry forward this funding and the corresponding cash requirement was not drawn from the Welsh Consolidated Fund.

5. **Impact on the funding provided to the Commission to fulfil the obligations of the Remuneration Board's Determination on Members Pay and Expenses.**

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the funding provided to fulfil the obligations of the Remuneration Board's Determination has been varied as shown in Table 6 below. The 2021-22 figures were also impacted by the 2021 Senedd election.

The following table shows the actual expenditure in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Table 6

Expenditure – £'000	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Actual 2021-22
Member Salary Costs	6,246	6,236	6,165
Member Support Staff salary Costs	7,313	8,073	7,767
Travel Costs	280	47	146
Office and Other Costs	1,118	1,238	1,364
Total	**14,956**	**15,595**	**15,442**

Overall expenditure against the Determination budget was higher during 2020-21 than both 2019-20 and 2021-22, despite the freeze in Member pay and reduced expenditure on travel seen in 2020-21. This was due to lower than normal turnover of Member support staff, leading to lower than anticipated vacancies and a higher total salary cost.

Member Support staff costs were lower during 2021-22, due to an increased level of vacancies as a result of the 2021 election. Travel costs increased during 2021-22 but remained lower than 2019-20.

The total underspend against the 2021-22 budget provided to the Commission to fulfil the obligations of the Remuneration Board's Determination was £178k, this was not drawn from the Welsh Consolidated Fund during 2021-22.

(All figures are subject to audit).

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: RE/715/22

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru

14 June 2022

Dear Peredur,

I am writing to inform you that I will be hosting the next meeting of the Finance Inter-ministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) on 15 June in Cardiff.

The focus of the meeting will be on the Government responses to the cost-of-living crisis. The agenda also includes an item on Net Zero which will consider progressive ways of investing in the net zero transformation of the energy system that ensures a sustained reduction in prices, particularly for lower income households and supports our energy security.

An action was agreed at the last F:ISC meeting in March for officials to work together to consider whether it is possible to strengthen processes to provide greater end of year funding certainty supported by appropriate budget flexibilities. The agenda includes an item for a progress update.

This will be followed by an update from the Devolved Governments on matters of shared interest, where I will provide information on the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales.

There will also be the opportunity to reiterate our concerns in regards to the UK Government's approach to EU Replacement funding and the impact of COVID and inflationary pressures on the health service.

I will report to the Committee on the outcome of the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government

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Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our Ref: MAJMEWL165822

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru

14 June 2022

Dear Peredur,

Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill – Revised Regulatory Impact Assessment

Following the completion of the Stage 2 proceedings in respect of the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill, and in line with Standing Order 26.28, a revised Explanatory Memorandum has been laid and I would like to bring the changes which have been made to the Regulatory Impact Assessment to the Committee's attention.

The overall estimated cost of the Commission has increased from £198.5m to £199.5m (0.6%). Transition costs have reduced from £9.9m to £9.6m (4.0%) and recurrent costs have increased from £188.5m to £190.0m (0.8%).

Increases to the cost of the "do-nothing" option (£5.1m) mean the additional cost over and above the do-nothing option of CTER has reduced from £45.0m to £41.0m. Increases in HEFCW staff numbers are a majority cause of the increase. Since 2019, when HEFCW staff numbers were baselined, HEFCW's FTE has risen by 6.5. Staff costs have been recalculated using this revised figure and increases HEFCW annual running cost by £381K, £3.8m over the 10-year evaluation period. The remining £1.3m increase are Welsh Government staff costs increases due to updated pay scales.

Table 1. Summary of total costs over the 10-year evaluation period

	Revised Costs (£000s)	Original Costs (£000s)	Difference Revised verses Original (£000s)	%
OPTION 1: Do Nothing	158,560	153,420	5,140	3.4
OPTION 2: New CTER Body	199,547	198,454	1,093	0.6
OPTION 4a: Merge HEFCW into WG	172,355	172,223	132	0.1

<u>The Committee's recommendations</u>

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In my letter of 29 March, following the publication of the Committee's Stage 1 report, I set out my initial response to the Committee's recommendations. I can now provide further details for those recommendations in response to which the RIA has been revised.

In response to recommendation four, the revised RIA sets out the potential variances which costs may be subject to. The overall revised variance estimate is forecast to be between -10% to +7%. This represents a range between a potential reduction of £19.1m and an increase of £13.8m on the revised forecast costs. Further detail has been provided in Appendix A, at paragraphs 22-28 and tables A1 and A2.

Under recommendation seven the Committee recommended the Welsh Government undertake further work on a location strategy and include this information in the revised RIA. Work on the location strategy continues, including assessing the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and price volatility. As a result, the RIA includes revised costs, and a revised risk profile range of -17% to +15%.

In response to recommendation eight, the revised RIA makes clear the monetary impact and rationale of using IT consultants as the basis for costings. The inclusion of IT consultant costs does not represent a decision to use consultants but is a prudent forecast in the face of potential significant cost volatility and builds in risk and contingency. The Commission has a duty to ensure value for money so it will be for them to assess whether the long-term use of consultants meet that test. Appendix A, at paragraphs 60 to 75 and Tables A7 and A8 provides further detail.

Key revisions and updates to the RIA

Individual revisions to the RIA have both increased and decreased costs within the overall increase. A summary of key changes and their impact is set out below:

Timing The original RIA assumed the Commission would commence operations (and begin incurring full costs) on 1 April 2023. It remains my intention to establish the Commission during 2023 and adopt a phased approach to the implementation of the functions provided for in the Bill. Therefore, in keeping with this timeframe and to continue to have a prudent approach, the revised RIA assumes the earliest the Commission will commence full operation is 1 November 2023. This revision delays the start of incurring higher staff, IT, and rent costs, which results in savings of £2.6m over the 10-year evaluation period.

Table 2 - Comparison of original RIA ongoing annual costs versus revised RIA

Ongoing Annual Running Costs	Revised Costs (£000s)	Original Costs (£000s)	Difference (£000s)	%
Staff Costs	13,137	12,980	157	1%
Board Costs	477	276	201	73%
Redundancy				
Non-payroll staff costs	388	383	5	1%
IT Costs	5,141	5,157	-16	0%
Other Corporate Costs	654	638	16	3%
Location Costs (inc. Lease)	340	326	14	4%
Total	**20,137**	**19,760**	**377**	**2%**

Board Costs The RIA has been updated for the revised estimates of the number of Board and Statutory Committee members. The latest estimates call for twelve ‘ordinary’ Board members and a further sixteen members of two Statutory Committees. The original RIA costed for eight ‘ordinary’ Board members and a further four members for the Research Committee. It also did not cost the additional time required by members to Chair these Committees. This has resulted in an increase of £201K per year (Table 2), £1.3m over the 10-year evaluation period.

Staff costs Both Welsh Government and HEFCW staff costs have been updated to the latest pay scales (2021-22), the original RIA used 2020-21. As noted above HEFCW FTE has been adjusted for the increase in their staff and this has been offset by a decrease in the expected FTE transferring in from Welsh Government. Overall changes add £157K per year (Table 2). These increases are offset by savings generated by the revised timeframe and add a total of £0.5m over the 10-year evaluation period.

Table 3 – Comparison of original RIA transition costs versus revised RIA

Transition costs	**Revised Costs (£000s)**	**Original Costs (£000s)**	**Difference (£000s)**	**%**
Staff Costs	109	497	-388	-78.1%
Board Costs	241	241		
Redundancy	2,030	2,031	-1	0.05%
Non-payroll staff costs	292	431	-139	-32.3%
IT Costs	4,901	4,902	-1	0.02%
Other Corporate Costs	275		275	100.0%
Location Costs (inc. Lease)	1,702	1,847	-145	-7.9%
Total	9,550	9,949	-399	-4.0%

Interim CEO The original RIA assumed an interim CEO would be appointed in February 2022, but this is no longer the case with an interim CEO not deemed necessary. Removing these costs and adding the revised timeframe for the CEO (starting from April 2023) results in a saving of £388K transition costs. The recruitment costs for the interim and permanent CEO have also been eliminated and reduced respectively so non-payroll staff costs have also reduced by £139K (Table 3).

Location The revised timeframe delays the need for a physical office space and saves rent costs of £145K (Table 3).

Other Corporate Costs These decreases have been offset by a £275K increase in other corporate costs. These are interim support costs (legal, translation, insurances subscriptions) that the Commission will need before the Commission is fully operational. The original RIA did not envisage any interim period of Commission operation so did not include these costs (Table 3).

I would like to take the opportunity to again thank the Finance Committee for their scrutiny of the Bill.

I have copied this letter to the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Welsh Government response to the Finance Committee's inquiry into Post EU funding

Date – Wednesday 22 June 2022
Title – Post-EU Funding Arrangements

Overview

- This paper provides information to the Finance Committee on Post-EU funding arrangements.

- The UK Government 2019 election manifesto committed to replace and "at a minimum match the size" of former EU funding in each nation of the UK. It has failed to honour this frequently repeated commitment, at the same time as deliberately overriding the devolution settlement.

- The UK Government's approach is effectively taking away funding in devolved areas that has been for the Senedd to ultimately determine since the start of devolution.

- The UK Government has also failed to negotiate continued access to EU funding programmes, like Horizon Europe.

Loss of £1bn EU Funding

1. On 4 May 2022, the Minister for Finance and Local Government issued a Written Statement[1] outlining the loss of funding to Wales as a result of the UK Government's arrangements for replacement EU Funding.

2. In summary, Wales was allocated £2.1bn for the 2014-2020 EU European Regional Development (ERDF) and European Social Funds (ESF). These would have been worth £1.404bn between January 2021 and March 2025, allowing for inflation and exchange rates in the same way as the UK Government has when calculating the level of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) to be allocated to Wales.

3. This funding would be additional to ongoing payments made from the Welsh Government's commitment of funding to projects in previous years under the 2014-2020 programmes.

4. The UK Government confirmed on 13 April 2022 that Wales will receive £585m through the SPF between April 2022 and March 2025. This includes £101m which is being top-sliced by the UK Government to support an adult numeracy programme called Multiply.

[1] Written Statement: Loss of funding to Wales as a result of the UK Government's arrangements for replacement EU funding (4 May 2022) | GOV.WALES

5. Together with the £47m from the 2021-22 Community Renewal Fund pilot, Wales will receive £632m in replacement funds in the period, a shortfall of £772m.

6. On top of this, the UK Government, when providing replacement EU farm funding, is deducting EU payments due to Wales for work which was part of the 2014-2020 Rural Development programme. This means Wales' rural communities are £243m worse off than had we remained in the EU.

7. Taken together, the £243m loss in rural funding and the £772m shortfall in EU structural funds add up to just more than £1bn. Applying the same inflation adjustment to rural funding as to the structural funds, the overall shortfall to the Welsh budget is more than £1.1bn.

8. Having less say over less money means there will be difficult decisions to make for the Welsh Government and other institutions across business, higher education (HE) and further education (FE), and the third sector who have used Structural and Investment Funds to support vital investments in research and innovation, business competitiveness, skills, employability, decarbonisation, sustainable communities, infrastructure and connectivity, and support for vulnerable people. These sectors have already raised concerns with the Welsh Government about the funding gaps they face as a result of the UK Government's actions.

9. These figures do not take into account the losses of funding from Wales' access to other EU funding programmes, including Erasmus, Horizon Europe and European Territorial Co-operation which have not been fully replaced by the UK Government.

The UK Community Renewal Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund

10. The SPF was first announced in 2017. The Welsh Government had no input or role in the UK Government's 2021-22 Community Renewal Fund pilot for the SPF. We were only offered meaningful discussion and negotiation on the priorities and governance structures of the SPF in early April 2022 prior to the publication of the Fund prospectus on 13 April, ahead of the local government pre-election period.

11. Despite this unfeasible timetable, we sought to create a partnership approach to the Fund that respected the devolution settlement and aligned with the expressed wishes of people and organisations in Wales on how post-EU funding should be invested and delivered set out in the *Framework for Regional Investment,* which was developed with Welsh partners and the OECD, and supported by a public consultation[2].

12. While we made some progress on investment priorities, we could not form a partnership with the UK Government on the following basis:

[2] Regional investment in Wales: framework | GOV.WALES

- the **funding formula** redirects funds away from those areas where poverty is most concentrated;
- the **role of the Welsh Government** falls short of a genuine co-decision making function essential to maximising investment and respecting devolution in Wales; and
- the funding package for Wales is over **£1bn** less than what we would have expected to receive via the EU between January 2021 and March 2025.

13. The UK Government is placing local government under considerable pressure by making them administrators of the SPF, with responsibility for managing the expectations of other public, HE/FE, private and the third sectors, who have benefitted significantly from EU Structural and Investment Funds and are all seeking replacement EU funding from a vastly reduced pot.

14. This could have been avoided if the UK Government had respected the intensive work undertaken in Wales over recent years, to create the strongest possible model for post-EU regional investment in Wales, and allowed the Welsh Government to manage this funding through the *Framework for Regional Investment in Wales*, which included an element of devolved funding and autonomy for local government.

15. The Multiply numeracy scheme which forms part of the SPF represents an additional encroachment into a devolved policy area which will conflict with and duplicate existing provision in Wales. In addition, whilst the UK Government is using the fund to support their own UK-wide schemes, they are denying the Welsh Government the ability to fund Wales-wide schemes – despite EU funding supporting a range of critical pan-Wales business and skills programmes.

16. As things stand, the UK Government is delivering funding in devolved areas with no input from the Welsh Government on its plans, minimal stakeholder engagement, no public consultation and no regard to the distinct economic landscape shaped in Wales over 20 years of devolution.

17. This is not only constitutionally inappropriate; it also risks poor value for money for scarce public spending if the UK Government allocates funding without properly engaging with the Welsh Government and aligning with the regional economic strategies we have developed with our partners.

18. Our intention now is to support local government through the Corporate Joint Committee structures and work with stakeholders to mitigate, as much as possible, the problems they are facing as a result of the UK Government's actions, and to maximise the available funding for the benefit of our businesses, people and communities across Wales.

Mechanisms and structures

19. Local authorities are required to produce SPF investment plans which contain details of partnership structures, regional interventions and outcomes, and an indication of the projects they are seeking funding for. The investment plans must be submitted between 30 June and 1 August, which will then be assessed by UK

civil servants and decided upon by Ministers at the UK Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities.

20. There is a requirement for local government to convene a local partnership during the process of developing and delivering their investment plans. The UK Government requires representation on these partnerships from various sectors, as well as MPs. There is no requirement to include Members of the Senedd.

21. The UK Government requires any underspends to be returned at the end of each financial year, which is in contrast to the way the multi-annual EU funding programmes were administered.

22. The UK Government has not set out its evaluation processes for the Fund.

Levelling-Up Fund

23. The UK Government is using the UK Internal Market Act financial assistance powers to take spending decisions directly in devolved areas bypassing the Welsh Government and Senedd. One such area is the UK's Levelling-Up Fund (LUF). The LUF is not a direct replacement for EU funding, but it is operating in the space that EU funds have previously occupied.

24. The LUF effectively replaces the England Towns Fund. It was announced at the UK Spending Review in November 2020 as an England measure from which the Welsh Government would receive a Barnett consequential. However, in February 2021, the UK Government confirmed it would deliver the Fund on a UK-wide basis with no prior consultation or communication. The Welsh Government has had no role in its development or delivery.

25. The first funding round was launched in March 2021, with successful applicants announced in October 2021. In the first round, six local authorities in Wales (RCT, Powys, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Wrexham) secured funds for 10 bids worth a total of £121m. Unsuccessful bids in Wales were worth £172m.

26. The second round was opened on 23 March 2022 with a deadline of 6 July 2022 for bids.

2014-2020 EU Structural Funds Programme

27. Responsibility for the delivery of ERDF and ESF programmes is delegated wholly to the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO), which manages the funds jointly with the European Commission. Programme delivery is overseen by an independent Programme Monitoring Committee, and papers for the Committee are published as a matter of routine.[3] The programmes run over a ten year period and there is considerable flexibility across that period. As the delegated official, the Chief Executive of WEFO would be pleased to update the Committee

[3] Wales Programme Monitoring Committee | GOV.WALES

on the ERDF and ESF programmes, as an understanding of the programmes is needed for information about them to be meaningful.

28. There is often a considerable delay between a beneficiary incurring expenditure which is eligible for EU support, and the submission of a claim for that support to WEFO. Many beneficiaries are experiencing additional delays due to Covid related difficulties. Furthermore, WEFO commonly allows beneficiaries to draw down grant funding as it is needed, rather than at an even rate across the life of the project (which may be several years long). This feature of the programmes was one that beneficiaries consistently requested to be retained in any replacement funding arrangements. The multi-annual framework also means that some particularly large projects were always intended to deliver at the back end of the programme period, including transport infrastructure and marine energy projects.

29. Figures for any given window in the ten year delivery period therefore need to be understood in the context of the programme as a whole. For example, the amount that WEFO drew down in the period between EU exit and today will relate to expenditure incurred by beneficiaries both before and during that period, and much of the eligible expenditure in that period has yet to be declared. The only way to take a meaningful annual figure for EU funding is to take an average over the programme period.

30. WEFO has fully committed the estimated[4] £2.1bn value of the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund for the 2014-2020 programmes, driving a total investment of nearly £4 billion.

31. So far, based on project Sponsor payment claims submitted to and approved by WEFO, 62% EU Funds (£1.3bn) has been spent under these programmes, which compares well with the performance of other UK and EU regions. WEFO has exceeded all annual ERDF and ESF spend targets set by the European Commission, and have already achieved two out of the four programmes end of calendar year 2022 spend targets. The Commission attends meetings of the independent Programme Monitoring Committee and is content with Wales' progress.

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

32. The UK Government, when providing replacement funding, is deducting ongoing EU receipts due to Wales through the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

33. This means Wales' rural communities are worse off by £243m than had we remained in the EU. We raised concerns about this at the 2020 and 2021 spending reviews, but UK Government has not altered its approach.

[4] The ceiling of ERDF and ESF funding that can be drawn down is set at the beginning of the programme period in Euros. WEFO has to estimate what that ceiling will be worth in Sterling as the programme develops and claims are submitted. WEFO plans against a range of possibilities in that respect, but figures quoted are based on the current formal planning rate of €1.17/£.

34. This figure consists of:
   - £42m transferred from CAP Pillar 1 into our Pillar 2 Rural Development Programme in 2020 which was ignored when replacement for direct payments were provided in financial year (FY) 2020-21 and/or FY 2021-22.
   - £95m of EU receipts which the UK Government has ‘netted off’ from replacement funding as part of the 2020 Spending Review affecting FY 2021-22.
   - £106m of netting-off confirmed in the 2021 Spending Review, affecting FY 2022-23 and 2023-24.

35. The UK Government Spending Review 2021 set out replacement funding up to 2024-25:

Description	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
CAP replacement	£242.2m	£252.19m	£315.01	£337
Shortfall to £337m	£94.8m	£84.81m	£21.99m	£0

36. In addition to the replacement funding received from the UK Government, we are providing at least £77m of match funding over the next three years. Given the pressures on the Welsh Government’s budget and the difficult choices this leads to, this demonstrates our ongoing commitment to supporting farmers and land managers to help achieve our objectives.

37. Over the next three years we are also making £275m available to support our farmers, foresters, land managers and food businesses to promote the sustainable production of food and support the rural economy on the path to a net zero, nature positive Wales.

38. This funding responds to the ending of the EU Rural Development Programme (RDP), which will close in 2023. The Welsh Government has stepped in to ensure continuity of support for important actions previously funded under the RDP and also to support the transition to the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS).

European Marine Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

39. Under the 2014-2020 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). Wales benefited from €19.7m euros of funding from the European Union. The UK Government has allocated £6.2m over the next three financial years (2022-2025) which is broadly in line with the EMFF allocation.

40. Marine and Fisheries funding proposals for 2022-23 are under development and officials are undertaking further engagement with stakeholders to ensure co-production of a scheme which will effect positive change to the marine and fisheries sector and support commitments in our *Programme for Government*.

Other EU funding programmes

EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme (FP): FP7, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe.

Horizon 2020 (2014 – 2020 EU programmes)

41. Welsh organisations secured a total of €150m from the EU's flagship research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, during the 2014-2020 programme period. However, during this period, we estimate Wales has also missed out on around €38m in Horizon funding due to EU exit-related uncertainties.

42. This is based on divergence of the UK performance from that of Germany. It correlates with analysis by the Royal Society in October 2019 which highlighted how uncertainty following the EU referendum reduced the UK's annual share of Horizon 2020 funding by almost a third, or nearly half a billion Euros in 2018 compared with 2015. The same trend can be seen in Wales.

Horizon Europe (2021–2027 EU programmes)

43. Welsh applicants are provisionally eligible and many continue to apply for Horizon Europe funding. The EU assesses applications but cannot sign grant agreements prior to formalisation of UK association. UK applicants successful in the EU process can claim funding from UKRI (the UK Research and Innovation Agency). The UK says that it is ready to associate but the political setting is preventing the EU from formalising association.

44. Uncertainty over formal association is clearly disadvantageous to Welsh participation, but there is insufficient data at present to estimate the level of funding that might have been lost to Wales since Horizon Europe opened in January 2021. Conversations with universities indicate that from a very low base in 2020, applications picked up in 2021 due to the promise of association, but this is now under serious threat as the delay continues along with the associated administrative difficulties.

45. Applicants face unnecessary barriers accessing Horizon Europe due to the lack of agreement on association. The administration involved in changing status from a partner to an associated partner and seeking funding from UKRI is significant, particularly for doctoral networks.

46. The situation has reached such a point that some stakeholders are considering whether a clear, well-funded and well-administered third country scheme would be *temporarily* preferable to the current uncertainty and administrative difficulty. This would be with a view to re-entering Horizon Europe if and when the UK resolves the political issues.

47. In the event the UK Government is unable to achieve formal association to Horizon, the funding allocated to Horizon Europe association will go to a UK-based alternative R&D programme. Wales could make use of this UK fund, but the benefits would depend on the details which have not been set out yet. There

is recognition that Horizon Europe's multilateral programme and brands cannot be replicated.

48. There are also new EU initiatives emerging for which expenditure in the UK is ineligible, for example the EU's Innovation Fund, The European Defence Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Investment Bank.

Erasmus Plus and replacements

49. The UK Government decided not to participate in Erasmus+ despite the Welsh Government being clear that remaining in Erasmus+ was our preference.

50. Wales received an average of €9.64m per year from Erasmus+ from 2014-20. In 2020, it received €13.14m. The new Erasmus+ Programme from 2021-27 received a budget increase of 79%. Assuming Wales' share increased in proportion with the overall increases to funding, Wales would have received on average around €17.2m/year from Erasmus+.

51. Instead, the UK Government has introduced the Turing Scheme on a UK-wide basis to replace some elements of Erasmus+. This has been established using the UK Internal Market Act without consent of Welsh Government Ministers. It has a budget of £110m/year, of which approximately £100m is funding for providers. It does not replace the staff, youth, or inward mobility elements of Erasmus+ or provide any funding for strategic projects. In 2021, Wales received £5.19m from the Turing Scheme.

52. The Turing Scheme has Welsh Government official level representation on its Assurance Board and on the Project Assessment Boards. We do not have a role in scrutiny/oversight or decision making.

53. Projects from the previous Erasmus+ programme will be able to run until 2023, meaning that a limited number of projects will continue to provide mobility opportunities. The remaining funding from the €13.14m allocated in 2020 is unknown, but many providers have reported there will be little funding available from these projects for the final year of projects that run until 2023.

54. The Welsh Government international learning exchange programme – Taith – was announced in March 2021 and applications for the first year of funding closed in May 2022. Taith will provide £65m of total funding for mobility and collaboration opportunities for all education sectors in Wales.

EU LIFE Programme

55. The EU LIFE Programme 2014-2022 had a budget of €3.4 billion to support biodiversity. Wales has on average received £3m per annum of EU LIFE funding for the period 2014-2019.

56. The EU has agreed to continue funding current projects to the end of their lifetime. In Wales, this includes 4 existing projects and also an additional 2

projects which have been successful as part of the last tranche led by Natural Resources Wales and match funded by Welsh Government.

57. From 2021, no new funding has been available through the EU LIFE programme. Discussions are ongoing through the 4 countries biodiversity group and with the UK Government regarding options on a replacement scheme and funding. Defra has indicated at policy level that any such replacement scheme would need to be funded from contributions from each countries block grant. Issues being considered are whether any replacement scheme would operate at a UK level and /or at country level and who would administer such a scheme at a UK level.

58. Such schemes are essential to continue delivering our biodiversity programme ensuring we meet our domestic and international obligations with regard to our protected sites network and emerging targets from COP 15.

Creative Europe

59. Under the Creative Europe programme (2014 – 2020), 15 organisations directly received funding in Wales totalling €2,575,369 to support the cultural, creative and audio-visual sectors.

60. €1,910,565 was directly awarded to Welsh companies and organisations through Culture, accounting for 6.3% of the €30 million Culture funding awarded UK wide. €664,804 was awarded to Welsh companies and organisations through MEDIA accounting for 1.48% of the €45 million Culture funding awarded UK wide.

61. The funding received was just part of the programme's benefits. The European partnerships, training and markets were arguably of greater value.

62. Despite our expressed preference to remain a part of Creative Europe, the UK Government decided not to continue participation and instead launched a pilot programme, the UK Global Screen Fund (established using the Internal Market Act financial assistance powers) last year. The Fund had an allocated budget of £7m, of this Wales directly received circa £300k. The Scheme has Welsh Government representation on its Steering Group, but we do not have a say in scrutiny/oversight or decision-making.

63. This programme has been expanded over the next three years as part of UK support for the creative industries with an allocated budget of £50m. It is not yet known how much of this funding will be allocated directly in Wales.

Other EU Funds including - European Territorial Co-operation and the PEACE project

64. The European Territorial Co-operation (ETC) programmes are worth around €7.5m per year for Wales. These include the Ireland-Wales and wider transnational and inter-regional ETC programmes which are providing solutions to key challenges which transcend borders, creating much more than just financial benefits for stakeholders.

65. The UK Government has chosen not to pursue participation in the 2021-2027 ETC programmes (other than PEACE PLUS in Northern Ireland). This decision has put at significant risk important partnerships and related economic opportunities across the Irish Sea, Europe and beyond.

66. Despite the UK Government position, we are working with other Devolved Governments to explore alternative ways in which our stakeholders might continue to engage in 2021-2027 ETC programmes through 'Third Country' provisions in the EU Regulations, at the very least on a "project-by-project" basis.

67. The Welsh Government, through its International Strategy and work on co-operation across the Irish Sea, is committed to continuing those partnerships, where possible, to raise Wales' presence globally and make us more competitive, but this will be restricted by the funding challenge.

Detail of the Welsh Government's assessment that Wales would receive at least £375 million a year, had Wales and the UK remained in the EU.

68. The White Paper *Securing Wales's Future*[5] Chapter 6 sets out the financial implications for Wales in respect of the European and Structural and Investment programmes. The overall figure comprises, on average across seven years, £295 million annually for the ERDF and ESF Structural Funds programmes, £80 million for the Rural Development programme and £2 million for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. In addition, Welsh partners benefit from approximately €7.5m per annum of ERDF through participation in the European Territorial and Co-operation (ETC) programmes. The figure of at least £375m does not take into account the losses of funding from our access to other EU funding programmes, including Erasmus and Horizon.

[5] SECURING WALES' FUTURE ENGLISH (gov.wales)

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 6

LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MEMORANDUM

UK INFRASTRUCTURE BANK BILL

1. This legislative consent memorandum is laid under Standing Order ("SO") 29.2. SO29 prescribes that a legislative consent memorandum (LCM) must be laid, and a legislative consent motion may be tabled, before Senedd Cymru if a UK Parliamentary Bill makes provision in relation to Wales for any purpose within, or which modifies the legislative competence of the Senedd.

2. The UK Infrastructure Bank Bill ("the Bill") was introduced in the House of Lords on 11 May 2022. The creation of a UK infrastructure bank ("the Bank") was first announced by the Chancellor at the Spending Review 2020. The Bank was launched on a non-statutory basis on 17 June 2021, and has already begun making investments.

3. The Bill as introduced can be found on the UK Parliament website: UK Infrastructure Bank Bill [HL] - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament

4. This LCM considers only the Bill as introduced. Welsh Government officials have sought amendments relating to the remit of the bank in areas of devolved competence to ensure devolution is respected, but to date the UK Government has not yet made any such changes.

Policy Objectives

5. The UK Government's stated policy objectives of the Bill are to set up the Bank to help tackle climate change and to support regional and local economic growth by providing access to financial instruments, including loans to local authorities to enable investment in infrastructure. It will operate on a UK-wide basis.

6. Her Majesty's Treasury (HM Treasury) published a new National Infrastructure Strategy alongside the UK Spending Review in 2021, and this outlined plans to transform UK infrastructure in order to "level up the country, strengthen the Union, and put the UK on the path to net zero emissions by 2050". Underpinning this strategy was the intention to create a UK Infrastructure Bank to "play a leadership role in supporting private infrastructure projects to help meet the Government's objectives on economic growth, levelling up, and transitioning to net zero".

7. In March 2021, HM Treasury published a policy design document , which confirmed that in total, the UK Infrastructure Bank would have £22 billion of financial capacity to deliver on its objectives. The Bank's financial capacity consists of £12 billion of equity and debt capital, and the ability to issue £10 billion of guarantees. The bank's investments are expected to help unlock over £40 billion of overall investment.

Summary of the Bill

8. The Bill is sponsored by HM Treasury.

9. The UK Government's stated purpose of this Bill is to place the UK Infrastructure Bank ('the Bank') on a statutory footing. The Bank is an operationally independent institution wholly owned by government.

10. By placing the Bank on a statutory footing, the Bill seeks to:

- confirm and give statutory force to the Bank's objectives and activities;
- ensure the Bank is a long-lasting institution;
- create statutory forms of transparency, accountability and governance for the Bank;
- remove legal barriers to the Bank undertaking direct lending to local authorities; and
- grant specific powers to the Treasury to provide financial assistance to the Bank.

Investment Principles

11. The Bank's Framework Document has the following investment principles to guide which investments are within the scope of its mandate. These principles state that investments should:

A. help to support the Bank's objectives to drive regional and local economic growth or support tackling climate change;
B. be in infrastructure assets or networks, or in new infrastructure technology. The Bank will operate across a range of sectors, but will prioritise in particular clean energy, transport, digital, water, and waste;
C. intend to deliver a positive financial return, in line with the Bank's financial framework; and
D. be expected to crowd-in significant private capital over time.

12. The Framework Document notes that the Bank's dual objectives of investing in projects to help mitigate and adapt to climate change, and of supporting regional and local economic growth across the UK have "huge potential synergies" but where these objectives are in tension with each other the Bank will "have regard to both of these objectives, both in setting its lending and investment policies and in assessing specific transactions". It further notes that: "where an investment is primarily to support economic growth, the Bank will ensure that it does not do significant harm against its climate objective".

13. As is further set out in the Framework Document, the Bank will not lend or provide other support to projects involving extraction, production, transportation and refining of crude oil, natural gas or thermal coal with very limited exemptions. These exemptions include projects improving efficiency, health and safety and environmental standards (without substantially increasing the lifetime of assets), for Carbon Capture and Storage ('CCS') or Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage ('CCUS') where projects will significantly reduce emissions over the lifetime of the asset, or those supporting the decommissioning of existing fossil fuel assets. The Bank will also not support any fossil-fuel fired power plants, unless part of an integrated natural gas-fuelled CCS or CCUS generation asset. This policy will be updated over time to reflect changes in government policy and regulatory standards.

Legal background

14. The Bank was set up in June 2021 as a company under the Companies Act 2006 (c46) and wholly owned by HM Treasury.

15. The establishment of the Bank relied on the common law capacity of the Crown to form and support companies.

16. Parliamentary authority for the funding of the Bank, and its initial establishment and exercise of activities derives *inter alia* from the Infrastructure (Financial Assistance) Act 2012 (c16) and to the extent relevant, sections 50 and 51 of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 (c27).

17. The present Bill seeks to provide a more specific and tailored Westminster Parliamentary mandate for the Bank, which is reflective of both general considerations concerning transparency, accountability and governance, as well as the current UK Government's policy priorities in relation to infrastructure investment.

18. The Bill affords a degree of flexibility for future changes to the scope of the Bank's activities (including the definition of "infrastructure") to allow for the possibility of future UK governments wishing to adjust the scope and focus of the Bank's mandate to reflect their policy priorities, and potential future changes in the market for infrastructure. This is achieved through powers to make delegated legislation subject to the affirmative procedure, as detailed in relation to clause 2 below.

19. The following legislation is relevant by way of background to the provisions of the Bill:
    a) The Companies Act 2006. The Bank is already a registered company and bound by the Companies Act 2006. The present Bill will complement provisions already set out in Companies Act 2006, for example on governance and may in some cases overlay or modify the Bank's obligations under that Act (see for example clauses 2(1), 3(5) and 4 as described below).
    b) The Climate Change Act 2008 (c27). This set a legally binding target for the UK to reach net zero carbon emissions by the year 2050 and is referenced in the Bill in relation to the Bank's climate change objective (see the description of clause 2(3) below).
    c) The Infrastructure (Financial Assistance) Act 2012 and sections 50 and 51 of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020. As noted above these provisions were relied upon for the setting up and initial funding and activities of the Bank. The current Bill provides a definition of infrastructure which is specifically tailored to the Bank and reflective of the current Government's policy priorities for the Bank. This definition is in some respects broader, and in other respects narrower than that set out in the 2012 and 2020 provisions and is subject to future change through delegated legislation as noted above.

20. In terms of the Bank's lending to local authorities for infrastructure purposes, the Bill is intended to remove any legal impediments to this that may derive from the existence of the detailed statutory code that currently governs public sector lending to local authorities. The relevant provisions are contained in the Public Works Loans Act 1875 (c89), section 4 of the Public Works Loans Act 1944 (c16), sections 3 to 6 of the National Loans Act 1968 (c12), the Local Loans (Procedure) Regulations 1968 (SI 1968/458) and the Public Works Loans (Fees) Regulations 1991 (SI 1991/1539). These provisions read together would likely amount to a comprehensive statutory scheme displacing any alternative or additional legal capacity to make public sector loans to local authorities for infrastructure purposes in accordance with the decision of the House of Lords in R v Secretary of State for the Home Department; ex parte Fire Brigades Union [1995] 2 AC 513. The Bill makes clear, as detailed in below in relation to clauses 2(4)(a) and 9, that the legal doctrine in the Fire Brigades Union case does not prevent the Bank undertaking infrastructure lending to local authorities.

21. The Bank in its current form has engaged in some transactions involving infrastructure lending to local authorities and private companies, however the only existing project being funded is a private sector driven solar farm in South Wales. In these transactions, the relevant loans originated through the Public Works Loans Act process, and were subsequently novated to the Bank, in observance of the current legal limitations as outlined above.

Territorial extent and application

22. The Bill extends and applies to the whole of the United Kingdom.

23. Infrastructure investment is a mixture of reserved and devolved competence. Matters relating to energy, cross-border rail and digital communications are cases where investment in infrastructure is likely to fall within reserved competence. Other matters such as rail, ports or bridges within a single devolved country or area are likely to fall within the legislative competence of the Senedd.

Provisions in the Bill for which consent is required

24. The Bill has a UK wide extent (as per clause 11(1) of the Bill) and the Bank is intended to be a UK-wide organisation. Whilst the Bank, which is wholly owned by HM Treasury, applies otherwise than in relation to Wales, for the purpose of establishing whether consent is required for the Bill, the question our analysis considers in respect of each clause of the Bill is whether the Senedd could legislate to do the same or something similar in relation to Wales. Therefore, the question considered in the below analysis is whether the Senedd could legislate with an England and Wales extent and a Wales application to achieve the same or something similar to the measures set out in this Bill, whether by first establishing a company (i.e. in the way that UK Government have established the Bank), or by using existing mechanisms, to provide financial assistance, loans, advice and support etc., with the objectives of (a) tackling climate change and (b) supporting economic growth, including at regional or local level in relation to Wales.

25. Consent of the Senedd is required on the entirety of the Bill as the Senedd has competence to legislate in the same or similar terms in relation to Wales. The main subject matter of the Bill, providing financial assistance and advisory support to projects relating to infrastructure (to include water, electricity, gas, telecommunications, sewerage, railways (including rolling stock), roads or other forms of transport and climate change), is a devolved area of the law. In our view, the following provisions of the Bill require legislative consent:

<u>Clauses 1 (Defining the ‘Bank’) and 10 (Interpretation) and 11 (Extent, commencement and short title)</u>

26. Clause 1 provides the definition of the ‘Bank’ for the purposes of the Bill. Clauses 10 and 11 are standard Bill provisions comprising interpretation, short title, commencement and extent.

27. Consent is required – these clauses are neither in competence or outside of competence in their own right as they are ancillary to the wider Bill. As the Bill itself (and all other clauses therein) relates to devolved matters, it is correct to treat these

clauses as being ‘in competence’ for the purposes establishing whether consent is required.

Clause 2 – Objectives and activities

28. This specifies what the Bank’s objectives and activities are to be. The objectives of the Bank are to help tackle climate change and to support economic growth. The activities of the Bank are to provide financial assistance to projects relating to infrastructure (to include water, electricity, gas, telecommunications, sewerage, railways (including rolling stock), roads or other forms of transport and climate change), provide loans to public authorities for such projects and to provide advisory and other support services for such projects.

29. Consent is required – the Senedd can legislate to confer these functions (which, as above, themselves relate to devolved areas of law) on a body it creates.

Clause 3 – Strategic priorities and plans

30. This clause requires HM Treasury to prepare a statement of strategic priorities for the Bank and requires the Bank to secure that its articles of association provide for the Bank to publish and act in accordance with such strategic plans.

31. Consent is required - the Senedd has competence to impose such an obligation on the Welsh Ministers and on a similar body to the Bank that it has created.

Clause 4 – Directions

32. This clause provides that HM Treasury may give a specific or general direction to the Bank about how it is to deliver its objectives and that the Bank must comply with such a direction.

33. Consent is required - the Senedd has competence to impose such obligations on a similar body to the Bank that it has created.

Clause 5 – Financial assistance

34. This clause makes provision for HM Treasury to provide financial assistance to the Bank for the purpose of helping the Bank in the delivery of its objectives. HM Treasury may arrange for money to be paid out of the National Loans Fund in order to enable loans to be made to the Bank, whether directly or indirectly and where a loan from the National Loans Fund is made directly to the Bank, HM Treasury is to determine the rate of interest on the loan, and other terms and conditions.

35. Consent is required – the Senedd can legislate to provide financial assistance to a body it creates for the purpose of helping the body it creates in the delivery of its objectives (which, as above, themselves relate to devolved areas of law). Further, by ignoring the source of funds (the National Loans Fund) for the purposes of the analysis, we conclude that the Senedd could legislate to enable loans to be made more generally in the manner prescribed by this clause (noting, specifically, the Explanatory Notes to the Wales Act 2017 which states that the reservation on government lending in paragraph 15 of Part 2 of Schedule 7A of GOWA does not affect the Senedd’s ability to allocate resources, whether part of its assigned budget or raised through its tax-varying powers).

Clauses 6 (Annual accounts and reports) and 7 (Directors: appointment and tenure)

36. Clause 6 requires the Bank's directors to deliver to HM Treasury a copy of the accounts and reports which they are required to prepare in accordance with section 441 of the Companies Act 2006 and to lay a copy of those accounts and reports before Parliament.

37. Clause 7 deals with corporate governance issues relating to the appointment and tenure of directors for the Bank.

38. Consent is required - the Senedd has competence to impose such obligations and corporate governance requirements on a similar body to the Bank that it has created.

Clause 8 – Duties of the Bank

39. This clause provides that any duty imposed on the Bank or its directors by or under 'this Act' is enforceable on an application by HM Treasury by injunction.

40. Consent is required - the Senedd has competence to make an application for enforcement by injunction. We specifically note that an injunction is an existing remedy and the Bill is not seeking to modify civil remedies (therefore the restriction at paragraph 8(1)(c) of Schedule 7A of GOWA does not apply to this clause).

Clause 9 - Reviews of the Bank's effectiveness and impact

41. This clause obliges HM Treasury to carry out reviews of the effectiveness of the Bank in delivering its objectives and its impact in relation to climate change and regional and local economic growth. After each review, HM Treasury much publish a report of the review and lay a copy of the report before Parliament.

42. Consent is required - the Senedd has competence to impose such obligations on a similar body to the Bank that it has created and on the Welsh Ministers regarding publishing a report of the review and laying a copy of the report before the Senedd.

UK Government view on the need for consent

43. The Economic Secretary to the Treasury has provided his analysis of the Bill regarding the UK Government's need for consent to the Bill. The Economic Secretary to the Treasury argues that the provisions of the Bill extend to the whole of the UK, but that Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 11 contain provisions that could fall within the legislative competence of the Senedd. It is the UK Government's view that only these clauses engage the legislative consent process. This analysis is high level and focuses on the type of possible investment of the Bank ('investment in areas such as rail, ports or bridges') and the location of that investment ('located solely in Wales').

44. Whilst the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has correctly identified that the Bank could be investing in types of infrastructure for which the Senedd has legislative competence and whilst he has correctly identified that such investment could relate to projects entirely situated in Wales, this is a narrow view of legislative competence.

45. As above, it is important to note that the Bill has a UK wide extent (as per clause 11(1) of the Bill) and whilst the Bank, which is wholly owned by HM Treasury, applies otherwise than in relation to Wales, for the purpose of establishing whether consent is required for the Bill, the question that the analysis must consider in respect of each clause of the Bill is whether the Senedd could legislate to do the same or something similar in relation to Wales. Therefore, the question that we have asked in our analysis is whether the Senedd could legislate with an England and Wales extent and a Wales application to achieve the same or something similar to the measures set out in this Bill, whether by first establishing a company (i.e. in the way that UK Government have established the Bank), or by using existing mechanisms, to provide financial assistance, loans, advice and support etc., with the objectives of (a) tackling climate change and (b) supporting economic growth, including at regional or local level in relation to Wales. It is unclear whether this approach has been adopted by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury and it is possible that he has approached his analysis from a different angle.

46. Turning to the clauses that the Economic Secretary to the Treasury does not consider to be in competence, we comment as follows:

    a) Clauses 1 and 11 – these clauses are not operative clauses (they provide the definition of the Bank (clause 1) and the extent and short title of the Bill (clause 11)) and so are neither in competence or outside of competence in their own right as they are ancillary to the wider Bill. As the Bill itself relates to devolved matters, it is correct to treat clauses 1 and 11 as being 'in competence' for the purposes of establishing whether consent is required.

    b) Clauses 6 and 7 – these clauses deal with the corporate governance of an existing body corporate and as such (as the objectives and activities of the said body corporate are within competence) they are within the legislative competence of the Senedd. The Senedd has competence to impose such obligations and corporate governance requirements on a similar body to the Bank that it has created.

    c) Clause 9 – this clause places an administrative requirement on the Bank and on HM Treasury and the Senedd has competence to impose such obligations on a similar body to the Bank that it has created and on the Welsh Ministers regarding publishing a report of the review and laying a copy of the report before the Senedd.

Welsh Government's Current Policy Position

47. Devolution remains the settled will of the Welsh electorate, and our position must be to protect the powers of the Senedd, whereas the Bill as currently drafted threatens devolved competencies. I.e., powers are reserved for UK Ministers and HM Treasury in a manner that undermines the responsibilities and obligations Welsh legislators were elected to protect.

48. The Bill as introduced provides no role for the Senedd, the Welsh Ministers, or Welsh Government officials in the governance of the Bank, while reserving certain activities for Parliament, the Chancellor and HM Treasury, such as the power for HM Treasury to amend the Bank's strategic direction including in areas of devolved competence without consulting the Senedd or Welsh Government.

49. I have written to the Economic Secretary to the Treasury to advocate that the Senedd, the Welsh Ministers and Welsh Government officials all exercise equivalent powers to those of our UK counterparts. This is necessary in order to be consistent with Welsh Government Cabinet principles, I.e., that "The Welsh Government must have an equal status to the UK Government's in governance of cross-border bodies with devolved functions which are established in UK Bills."

50. The remit of the Bank is directly linked to the UK Government's policy approach to the Levelling Up agenda. We remain concerned at an operational level that issues demonstrated through separate analyses of the Towns Fund, Levelling Up Fund and the Shared Prosperity Fund - such as allocations not being aligned to devolved policy, allegations of political bias, the risk of poor value for money - may be exacerbated by the Bank's operations. Equivalence among administrations concerning the governance of the Bank is required to ensure that it remains focussed on shared interests.

51. It should be noted that if the Bank is to act as a lender to Welsh Local Authorities, given the devolved funding arrangements, the implications of such agreements will be a matter impacting the Welsh Government.

52. I have today written to the Economic Secretary to the Treasury to urge him to amend the Bill to enable the Senedd and the Welsh Ministers to take their appropriate role within Governance structures to ensure proper democratic accountability.

Financial implications

53. There are no direct financial implications arising from this memorandum.

Conclusion

54. As set out above, the legislative consent of the Senedd Cymru is required for a number of clauses of the Bill. A number of these clauses are of constitutional concern to the Welsh Government. Thus, despite the merits of some of the clauses, the Welsh Ministers' final position on whether to recommend consent is subject to the outcome of ongoing discussions with the UK Government regarding bringing forwards amendments to the Bill.

Rebecca Evans MS
Minister for Finance and Local Government
25 May 2022

Welsh Parliament
Business Committee

Timetable for consideration: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the UK Infrastructure Bank Bill

June 2022

accordance with Standing Order 29.4(i), to invite the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee, the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee, the Finance Committee and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee to consider and report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the UK Infrastructure Bank Bill.

In accordance with Standing Order 29.4(ii), the Business Committee agreed that the committees should report to the Senedd by 29 September 2022.

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