

Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:
Committee Room 2 - Senedd

Meeting date:
20 October 2011

Meeting time:
09:15

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



For further information please contact:

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Agenda

1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions

2. Welsh Government Draft Budget 2012-2013 - Scrutiny of Minister for Local Government and Communities (9:15-10:00)

Carl Sargeant, Minister for Local Government and Communities
Reg Kilpatrick, Director Local Government and Public Services

3. Welsh Government Draft Budget 2012-2013 - Evidence from Welsh NHS Confederation (10:00-10:30) (Pages 1 - 2)

FIN(4)-06-11 – Paper 1
Helen Birthwhistle, Director, Welsh NHS Confederation

4. Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business: (10:30-11:15)

Item 5
Item 6
Item 7

5. Members' consideration of evidence (10:30-10:45)

6. Inquiry into effectiveness of European Structural Funding in Wales (10:45-11:00) (Pages 3 - 9)

7. Draft report on the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales draft estimate (11:00-11:15) (Pages 10 - 33)

8. Papers to note (Pages 34 - 38)
FIN(4)-05-11 (Minutes)

Work Programme

Finance Committee FIN(4)-06-11 Paper 1

October 2011

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2012-13 – evidence from the Welsh NHS Confederation

On 4 October 2011, the Welsh NHS Confederation made a statement in response to the publication of the Welsh Government's draft budget 2012-13, as follows:

"The NHS in Wales welcomes both today's draft budget and the announcement by the Health Minister about further additional funding.

"The seven Health Boards and three NHS Trusts in Wales are already working hard to make sure that high quality, safe and cost-effective healthcare services are available to everyone. This money will help progress this work and will undoubtedly benefit patients.

"We must emphasise, however, that to continue to improve, the NHS needs to transform how services are delivered to patients – the status quo is simply not an option."

The Welsh NHS Confederation, which represents the seven Health Boards and three NHS Trusts in Wales, is clear about the pressing need for major change to the way health services are delivered to patients.

It is widely acknowledged that, across the United Kingdom, Wales received the toughest financial settlement in respect of the NHS. Given this current general economic climate, therefore, the NHS is grateful for a draft budget which will release an additional £288 million over three years. Notwithstanding this extra funding, however, cost pressures are still significant and ever-increasing.

Health Boards will need to continue to take stringent cost-reduction measures, including efficiency savings of at least 5% a year over the next three years. This is an exacting position for the NHS, which will result in difficult decisions having to be made in order to meet the legal obligation to break-even by 31 March 2012 and for each financial year thereafter.

The Health Minister's announcement that an additional £100 million will be distributed to Health Boards later this month is particularly welcomed. By informing the NHS of this resource now, Health Boards can make it an integral part of the planning of services. It gives an opportunity for Health Boards to take stock of their current financial position, of their forecasts, their performance and to reassess their service priorities and how they will deliver services.

In terms of financial planning, this also represents a significant change in approach by signalling recurring monies rather than operating simply on an in year basis.

It means that health organisations will now be better placed to take a longer term view of service change and improvement which can only benefit patients.

Part of the responsibility of the NHS in Wales, especially in these economically straitened times, is to be open about the difficult choices we face. Long term demographic trends, costly medical advances and new drugs, lifestyle related conditions and the challenges of providing services across all parts of Wales, have an impact on healthcare resources. If the NHS continues to do the same things in the same way but with less money then it will fail.

The people of Wales, we believe, understand that the current economic climate affects not only the size of the public services budget but also how it is used. We know that the NHS in Wales must do more to involve the public and patients, staff and partner services in explaining and working through the choices that need to be made. Health Boards and Trusts are committed to improving arrangements for involving all these groups, to explaining priorities and to continuing the development of a modern, safe, quality, value-for-money health service.

Helen Birtwhistle
Director
Welsh NHS Confederation

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

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

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Agenda Item 8

Finance Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 2 - Senedd**

Meeting date: **Wednesday, 12 October 2011**

Meeting time: **Times Not Specified**

This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:
[<insert link here>](#)

Cynulliad
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National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Witnesses:

Committee Staff:

- 1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions**
- 2. Welsh Government Draft Budget 2012-2013 - Scrutiny of Minister for Finance**
- 3. Welsh Government Draft Budget 2012-2013 - Evidence from Welsh Council for Voluntary Action**
- 4. Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:**
- 5. Members' consideration of evidence**
- 6. Draft report on Assembly Commission Draft Budget 2012-2013**
- 7. Potential inquiry into Devolution Funding**

Draft Finance Committee Forward Work Programme: Autumn 2011

Wednesday 28 September 2011 (9.30-11.40)

- 1. Scrutiny of proposal to amend Welsh Government budget motion (9.35-10.15)**
 - Welsh Government
 - Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Finance
 - Andrew Jeffreys (Head of Strategic Budgeting / Pennaeth Cyllido Strategol).
 - Jo Salway (Head of Budget Policy / Pennaeth Polisi Cyllideb).
 - Jeff Andrews (Specialist Policy Adviser, Finance / Cynghorydd Arbennigol Polisi, Cyllid).

- 2. Information gathering: Stakeholder concerns around potential implications of Welsh Government draft budget 2012-2013 (10.15-11.00)**
 - WLGA (10.15 – 11.00)
 - Cllr Rodney Berman, WLGA Finance Spokesperson and Leader, Cardiff County Council
 - Steve Thomas CBE, Chief Executive, Welsh Local Government Association
 - Vanessa Phillips, Director of Resources, Welsh Local Government Association

- 3. PRIVATE- Members' consideration of evidence taken during meeting (11.00-11.10)**

- 4. PRIVATE- Potential inquiry into Devolution Funding**
 - Members' consideration of oral briefing (11.10-11:25)

- 5. PRIVATE- Potential inquiry into effectiveness of European Structural Funding in Wales**
 - Members' consideration of scoping paper (11.25-11.40)

Thursday 6 October 2011 (9:30-11:50)

- 1. Scrutiny of Assembly Commission draft budget (9:35-10:30)**
 - Assembly Commission
 - Angela Burns AM, Assembly Commissioner for budget and governance
 - Claire Clancy, Chief Executive and Clerk of the Assembly,
 - Steve O' Donoghue, Head of Assembly Resources

2. **Scrutiny of Public Service Ombudsman for Wales draft estimates (10:30-11:25)**
 - Public Service Ombudsman for Wales
 - Peter Tyndall, Ombudsman for Wales
 - Susan Hudson, Policy & Communications Manager
 - Malcolm MacDonald, Financial Adviser.
3. **PRIVATE- Members' consideration of evidence taken during meeting (11.25-11.40)**
4. **PRIVATE- Members' consideration of draft report of Committee's consideration of Welsh Government proposal to amend the Annual Budget Motion (11:40-11:50)**

Wednesday 12 October 2011 (9.30-11.40)

- 1 **Scrutiny of Welsh Government draft budget**
 - Welsh Government (9:30-10:20)
 - Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Finance
 - Andrew Jeffreys (Head of Strategic Budgeting -Strategic Planning, Finance & Performance - SPF&P) (Pennaeth Cyllidebu Strategol - Cynllunio Strategol, Cyllid a Pherfformiad - CSC&P)
 - Jeff Andrews (Specialist Policy Adviser, SPF&P / Cynghorydd Polisi Arbenigol)
 - Michael Hearty (Director General, Strategic Planning, Finance and Performance/ Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol - Cyllidebu Strategol - Cynllunio Strategol, Cyllid a Pherfformiad - CSC&P)
 - Welsh Council for Voluntary Action (10.20-11.10)
 - Phil Fiander, Director of Programmes
 - Michelle Matheron, Senior Policy Officer
- 2 **PRIVATE- Members' consideration of evidence taken during meeting (11.10-11.15)**
- 3 **PRIVATE- Members' consideration of draft report on Assembly Commission draft budget (11.15-11.30)**
- 4 **PRIVATE- Members' consideration of scoping paper on potential future inquiry into devolved funding (11:30-11:40)**

Thursday 20 October (9.30-11.30)

- **Scrutiny of Welsh Government draft budget**
Carl Sargeant Minister for Local Government and Communities (9.15-10.00) (officials to be confirmed)
 - Helen Birthwhistle NHS Confederation & an NHS Health Board (10:10-10:30)

1. **PRIVATE- Members' consideration of evidence taken during meeting (11:00-11:15)**
2. **PRIVATE- Members' consideration of draft report on Public Service Ombudsman for Wales draft estimates (11.15-11.30)**

Monday 31 October 2011 (15.00-16.30)

1. **Scrutiny of Welsh Government draft budget (15:00-16:00)**
 - Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Finance
2. **PRIVATE- Members consideration of evidence taken during meeting (16.00-16.30)**

Wednesday 2 November 2011 (9.30-11.30)

1. **PRIVATE: Scrutiny of Welsh Government draft budget (9.30-11.30)**
 - Members' consideration of draft report

Possible- Monday 7 November (15:00-16:00)

1. **PRIVATE: Scrutiny of Welsh Government draft budget (15.00-16.00)**
 - Members' further consideration of draft report

Meeting of 7 November may be cancelled if Committee agrees a draft report on the budget at its previous meeting of 2 November.

Wednesday 16 November (9:30-11:30)

1. **Oral evidence taking in new committee inquiry (9:30-11:25)**
 - Witnesses tbc
2. **PRIVATE- Members consideration of evidence taken during meeting (11.25-11.30)**

Wednesday 30 November (9:30-11:30)

1. **Oral evidence taking in new committee inquiry (9:30-11:25)**
 - Witnesses tbc
2. **PRIVATE- Members consideration of evidence taken during meeting (11.25-11.30)**

-----**End of Autumn Term**-----

