Elin Jones MS, Llywydd

15 July 2020

Dear Llywydd,

Budget timetable 2021-22

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2020, consulting the Finance Committee on the proposed timetable of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2021-22.

Whilst the Finance Committee appreciates that the proposed budget timetable is due to the uncertainty regarding the UK Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, we find ourselves in a similar situation to last year were the proposed timetable reduces the time available for scrutiny. Given the ongoing uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic and the end of the Brexit transition period the opportunity for robust scrutiny is even more pressing this year.

As the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd refers to in her letter of 2 July 2020, I along with my counterparts in the Scottish Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly have written to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. We have stressed the importance of the timing of the UK budget on the devolved governments' budgets given that the appropriate level of scrutiny of the devolved governments' budgets has a dependence on it. We have asked for an early indication as possible of the timing of the UK Budget and an assurance that the Chief Secretary will give consideration to the impact of that timing on the respective budget processes across all of the devolved nations.

Nonetheless, If the Minister for Finance is able to bring forward the budget earlier in the autumn, the Finance Committee would support the Business Committee revising the timetable accordingly, and more favourably in terms of the number of sitting weeks available for scrutiny.

Yours sincerely

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Llyr Gruffydd AM

Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.