

Lesley Griffiths MS
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs
Welsh Government

12 October 2020

Dear Lesley,

Draft Budget scrutiny 2021-22

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee has started its preparations for scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft Budget for 2021-22.

We appreciate that the timetable for the draft budget is yet to be finalised. However, we thought it would be helpful to inform you that we will invite you in due course to attend a scrutiny session on the draft budget. I hope we can agree a date for your attendance once the timetable has been finalised.

To assist the Committee in our preparations, I would be grateful if you would provide information in relation to the matters set out in this letter. Of course, you should not feel limited by our request and are welcome to address any other issues you believe will assist the Committee in its work.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information in advance of the scrutiny session. I have asked the Clerking team to liaise with your officials about an exact deadline.

Programme for Government / Prosperity for All

- An explanation of how the budget allocations within your portfolio align to Programme for Government and Prosperity for All commitments and priorities.



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- An explanation of how the introduction of a higher statutory emissions reduction target, due in early 2021, has influenced budget allocations.
- Examples of budget allocations that will contribute to decarbonisation.
- For an update on work to align the fiscal and carbon budgets.
- An explanation of how the Welsh Government is responding to its declaration of a “Climate Emergency” and how that has influenced budget allocations.
- An explanation of how the setting of biodiversity as the eighth Prosperity for All priority has influenced this year’s budget setting process.
- Examples of budget allocations that will contribute to reversing the decline in biodiversity.

Preventative Spend

- Details of the proportion of portfolio budget allocated to preventative spending measures and how this has increased compared to last year’s budget.
- Details of which specific policies or programmes in the portfolio are intended to be preventative.

Evidence-based policy making

- An explanation of how you have used evidence in prioritising your draft budget allocations and how you will monitor and evaluate programmes to ensure they provide value for money and inform future budget setting processes.
- Details of how the development of the draft budget has been informed and influenced as a result of consultation with stakeholders.

Well-being of Future Generations Act

- Examples of how the Act has informed decisions on specific budget allocations.
- Details of how the impact assessment process has influenced the development of the draft budget, including examples of where a decision has been assessed against the Welsh Government’s well-being objectives.

Equality, Welsh language and children’s rights assessment

- Details of how you have considered the impact of the draft budget on groups with protected characteristics and the Welsh language, including details of any relevant impact assessments.
- Details of how children’s rights have been considered in the budget decisions for the portfolio.



Covid-19 Reconstruction: Challenges and Priorities

An explanation of how the budget allocations within your portfolio align with the key priorities for reconstruction in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Withdrawal from the European Union

I would be grateful if you could provide information about budget allocations in the following policy areas, and the purposes for which they have been allocated:

- The development of the new land management programme for Wales;
- Future fisheries policy;
- A potential new environmental governance body and related transitional arrangements;
- Sufficient staffing resource for the development of policies and legislation associated with Brexit; and
- Any other matter of significance in relation to Brexit.

Please could you also provide an update on discussions with the UK Government about replacement EU funding, including for agriculture support.

Legislation

I would be grateful if you could provide information about the budget allocations for the implementation of existing and planned primary legislation; the implementation of planned and existing subordinate legislation; and for the implementation of UK legislation such as the Agriculture Bill, Fisheries Bill and Environment Bill.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Details of budget allocations for NRW, including explanations of any changes.

Additional areas of Committee interest

The Committee would also be grateful if you could provide details of how allocations in the draft budget will address the following matters:

- Air quality, including the take up of the Air Quality fund and the implementation of the Clean Air Plan;
- Delivery of the Welsh Government's priority actions for 2021-2023 set out in its proposed Tackling Fuel Poverty 2020–2035: A plan to support people struggling to meet the cost of their domestic energy needs;



- Implementation of the recommendations of the “Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World” report;
- Implementation of the Welsh Government’s forthcoming Strategic Plan for the Food & Drink Industry in Wales;
- Bovine TB Eradication Programme (including Delivery Plan, testing and compensation);
- Implementation of the Woodlands for Wales Strategy;
- Nitrate Vulnerable Zone management;
- Implementation of the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, including the take up of the Coastal Risk Management Programme;
- Implementation of the Environmental Growth Plan;
- The proposed licensing regime for Animal Exhibits; and
- Banning third party sales of puppies and kittens.
- Initiatives to reduce plastic pollution, including a deposit return scheme, and the development of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Hedges MS
Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

