

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: RE/365/20

Llyr Gruffydd AS/MS
Chair of Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA
SeneddFinance@senedd.wales

29 October 2020

Dear Llyr,

I am writing to provide an update on the timetable for the 2021-22 Welsh Government Budget.

Yesterday the UK Government confirmed the Spending Review will take place on 25 November. This announcement comes only days after the UK Government confirmed it had decided to conduct a one-year Spending Review rather than the long-awaited multi-year review. This piecemeal approach to releasing information is very unhelpful and makes the task of planning for and managing our budget an extremely difficult one.

In confirming, before the summer recess, the Welsh Government's intention to publish the Budget on 8 December, it was subject to the timing of the UK Government's Spending Review. Unfortunately, in light of yesterday's announcement, we will not know our settlement for 2021-22 until 25 November. As a result, it is necessary to defer publication of the Welsh Government's Budget. With your agreement, I intend to publish the draft Budget on 21 December in recess. This timeframe will ensure that the time available for scrutiny is not compromised and that we provide funding certainty to our delivery partners and stakeholders before Christmas. In essence, this will mean adopting a similar timeline to last year's Budget and I will make a statement as soon as possible on the draft Budget in the first sitting week after Christmas. I would be very grateful for your cooperation in circumstances which are again influenced by factors beyond our control.

I plan to issue a Written Statement to Members as soon as possible to update them on these developments.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Business Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans.

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