

Lesley Griffiths AM  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

7 February 2019

Dear Lesley

At the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee meeting on 24 January, the Committee agreed that I should write to you to express our disappointment over the timing of your response to our report on the Welsh Government's draft budget 2019–20.

In our letter dated 27 November 2018, we requested that you respond to our report either by 8 January 2019, or in advance of the Plenary debate on the final budget, whichever was sooner. This was on the basis that Members would have adequate time to consider your response in order to further inform the Plenary debate.

We are aware of the time pressures associated with the draft budget scrutiny process, with often limited time available for Assembly committees to scrutinise proposals, and for the Welsh Government to respond to committee reports. However, on this occasion, the Committee did not receive your response to our report until the afternoon of the Plenary debate, which was most unsatisfactory.



We seek assurance from you that this will not be repeated when responding to future draft budget reports.

I am copying this letter to Llyr Gruffydd AM, Chair of Finance Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'H'.

**Mike Hedges AM**

**Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee**

cc Llyr Gruffydd AM, Chair of Finance Committee

