

Alun Davies AM
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language
Welsh Government
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

1 September 2017

Dear Alun

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2018-19

You will be aware that Assembly committees will be undertaking scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget 2018-19 during the autumn term.

Written evidence

To inform the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee's scrutiny, we would welcome written information from you on the areas detailed in the Annex to this letter. We would be grateful to receive this information by Friday 20 October 2017.

Oral evidence

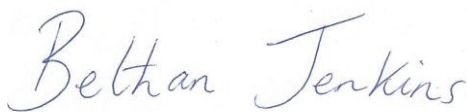
Members would also be grateful if you could attend an oral evidence session on Wednesday 8 November 2017 from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm.

Approach

The Committee will seek to follow the Finance Committee's lead, basing our approach on the four principles of financial scrutiny: affordability, prioritisation, value for money and budget processes. We will also seek evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, given the relevance of their work to our remit.

In accordance with the new budget procedures, the Committee will consider whether to report our findings to the Assembly in time for the Plenary debate on the draft budget on 5 December 2017. Any report will be shared with you.

Yours sincerely



Bethan Jenkins AM
Chair



Annex

ANNEX – REQUEST FOR WRITTEN INFORMATION IN ADVANCE OF DRAFT BUDGET SCRUTINY

The Committee requests the following information:

Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations

- A breakdown of the 2018-19 draft budget allocations (as relevant to the Welsh Language, Broadcasting and the Media) by MEG, Spending Programme Area, Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL).
- Final out-turns for 2016-17 and forecast out-turns for 2017-18.
- Indicative 2019-20 MEG allocations.
- Commentary on each of the Actions within the MEG as relevant to the Welsh Language, Broadcasting and the Media, including an analysis and explanation of changes between the Draft Budget 2018-19 and the First Supplementary Budget (June 2017).

Other information

- Information on how the delivery of the Welsh Language, Broadcasting and the Media portfolio and their associated outcomes are monitored and evaluated to demonstrate value for money.
- Details of specific policies or programmes within the relevant MEGs (relevant to Welsh Language, Broadcasting and the Media) that are intended to be preventative and how the value for money and cost benefits of such programmes are evaluated.
- Information on allocations (and their location) in your portfolio to provide for legislation which has the potential to impact in the financial year 2018-19 as relevant to Welsh Language, Broadcasting and the Media.
- Implications of the UK exit from the EU on the Welsh Language, Broadcasting and the Media portfolio and how the Welsh Government will manage any predicted impact.

Specific areas

Updates on allocations in 2017-18 budget

- Information relating to the £3 million of additional funding allocated to the National Centre for Learning Welsh within the 2017-18 Welsh in Education BEL.
- Details of the funding allocated (£400,000) to help small and medium sized enterprises to become 'more bilingual'.



- Information on how the remaining amount from the £4.85 million allocation in the 2017-18 Welsh in Education BEL has been used.

White paper – Striking the right balance: proposals for a Welsh Language Bill

- Allocations and commentary in respect of the implications for the 2018-19 Welsh language budget (SPA) of bringing forward legislation in relation to the Welsh language.
- Allocations and commentary in respect of any additional funding that may be required in 2018-19, or allocations from within the Welsh Language budget in order to create a new body to promote the Welsh language and monitor and enforce standards.

Cymraeg 2050

- Any implications for the 2018-19 Welsh in Education BEL following the Rapid review of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans 2017-2020 and the recommendations included within it.
- Allocations and commentary in respect on any funding associated with expanding Welsh-medium early years provision, with particular reference to the policy aim of increasing the number of early years provision by 40 nursery groups by 2021.
- Information on the implications on the Welsh language budget of expanding workplace training to help develop the Welsh language skills of teachers in pre-16 and post-16 sector, and expansion of the sabbatical scheme.
- Implications for the 2018-19 budget with regard to the policy aim of increasing the number of primary and secondary teachers teaching through the medium of Welsh, and increasing the number of secondary teachers teaching Welsh as a subject.
- Information on the development of the Welsh language provision through the new Childcare Offer, and whether it is anticipated that the Offer will have any implications for the Welsh language budget in 2018-19.

Welsh Language Commissioner

- Allocations and commentary in respect of the budget allocation for the Welsh Language Commissioner in 2018-19.

Patagonia

- Allocations and commentary in respect of the Welsh Government's grant to the international education programme, and future funding arrangements.

Media and broadcasting



- Allocations and commentary in respect of any funding for the media and broadcasting.

