

Elin Jones MS, Llywydd, Chair of the Business Committee
Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government

12 July 2021

Dear Llywydd and Minister

Finance Committee Plenary debate on the Welsh Government's spending priorities

The Finance Committee has met to consider the approach to scrutiny of the Draft Budget 22-23 and has noted the [Fifth Senedd Legacy Report](#) by our predecessor committee, specifically the following recommendation:

“The Committee recommends that the responsible committee of the Sixth Senedd works with the Welsh Government to secure an annual budget priorities debate in the formal budget cycle.”

We have noted that during the previous Senedd, two debates of this type were held following a formal request from the Finance Committee to the Business Committee. In a letter from the Business Committee, [June 2020](#), it said “there was unanimous support for this type of debate being held annually”. At that time the Minister for Finance also said she found the pre-summer debates “to be extremely useful in understanding colleagues’ priorities for the budget ahead”¹.

This year, the Welsh Government has scheduled its own debate on *Priorities for 2022-23 Budget Preparations*, to take place in Plenary on 13 July.

¹ <https://record.assembly.wales/Committee/11123>



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As a Committee we consider that the priorities debate should be led by the Finance Committee. In normal circumstances we intend to carry out stakeholder engagement to gain their views on where the Welsh Government should be prioritising spending. This information will feed into the debate which is an important part of the budget cycle, it also allows Members the opportunity to debate and potentially influence the Welsh Government's spending priorities prior to the formulation of the Draft Budget.

Therefore, I would like to seek agreement from the Minister and Business Committee that in future years this will be a Finance Committee-led debate that takes place annually before summer recess.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS / AS

Cadeirydd / Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

