

Concise Minutes – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

This meeting can be viewed

Video Conference via Zoom

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

Meeting date: Wednesday, 29 September
2021

<http://senedd.tv/en/12422>

Meeting time: 09.30 – 12.25

Remote

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Peredur Owen Griffiths MS (Chair) Peter Fox MS Mike Hedges MS Rhianon Passmore MS
Witnesses:	Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government Andrew Jeffreys, Welsh Government Matthew Denham-Jones, Welsh Government Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales, Audit Wales, Lindsay Foyster, Audit Wales Kevin Thomas, Audit Wales Ann-Marie Harkin, Wales Audit Office
Committee Staff:	Owain Roberts (Clerk) Leanne Hatcher (Second Clerk) Georgina Owen (Second Clerk) Mike Lewis (Deputy Clerk)



	Martin Jennings (Researcher) Owen Holzinger (Researcher)
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In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on www.senedd.tv

Private pre-meeting – Informal (09.15–09.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the virtual meeting of the Finance Committee.

2 Paper(s) to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

- 2.1 PTN 1 – Letter from the Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee: Committee timetable – 14 July 2021
- 2.2 PTN 2 – Letter from the Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee: Plenary debate on the Welsh Government’s spending priorities 2022–23 – 16 July 2021
- 2.3 PTN 3 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Revised Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) code for Subordinate Legislation – 1 July 2021
- 2.4 PTN 4 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Land Transaction Tax – Independent Review – 28 July 2021
- 2.5 PTN 5 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Additional information on Barnett consequentials and business support – 19 July 2021
- 2.6 PTN 6 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Finance Ministers' Quadrilateral Meeting on 20 July – 14 September 2021
- 2.7 PTN 7 – Scrutiny of Welsh Government First Supplementary Budget 2021–22: Welsh Government response – 23 August 2021
- 2.8 PTN 8 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Statement of Principles for Directly Funded Bodies – 2 August 2021
- 2.9 PTN 9 – Letter from the Chair of the Llywydd's Committee: Financial oversight of the Electoral Commission – 9 September 2021
- 2.10 PTN 10 – Letter from the Chair of the Children Young People and Education Committee: Children and young people’s priorities for the Sixth Senedd – 20 July 2021
- 2.11 PTN 11 – Letter from the Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee: Joint working between committees in the Sixth Senedd – 10 August 2021

3 Introductory session with the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Evidence session

3.1 The Committee took evidence from Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government; Andrew Jeffreys, Director Treasury; and Matthew Denham-Jones, Deputy Director Financial Controls.

3.2 The Minister agreed to provide the following:

- an update on the progress of the Budget Advisory Group for Equality and the wider role it can play in looking at the budget process;
- a note on how consequential funding from the National Insurance increase will flow into the Welsh Government's budget.

Break (10.30–10.40)

4 Oversight of Audit Wales – Scrutiny of the Annual Report and Accounts 2020–21 and the Annual Plan 2021–22: Evidence session

4.1 The Committee took evidence from the Auditor General for Wales; Chair of the Wales Audit Office; and Audit Wales officials.

4.2 Peter Fox MS temporarily chaired part of the item due to technical issues, in accordance with Standing Order 17.22.

4.3 Audit Wales agreed to provide the following:

- a note on the 5 year strategic plan being developed to prioritise the key points of organisational transformation.
- a note on the review of travel and subsistence policies.

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting.

5.1 The motion was agreed.

6 Oversight of Audit Wales – Scrutiny of the Annual Report and Accounts 2020–21 and the Annual Plan 2021–22: Consideration of evidence

6.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.

7 Introductory session with the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Consideration of evidence

7.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.

8 Draft Public Audit (Amendment) Wales) Bill

8.1 The Committee agreed to consider this item at a future meeting.