

Chair, Children, Young People, and Education
Committee
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure
Committee
Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations Committee
Chair, Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee

11 April 2022

Dear Committee Chairs

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2023-24: Engagement

At our meeting on 25 March 2022, the Finance Committee (the Committee) considered its programme of engagement for the forthcoming Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2023-24, ahead of the Committee's Plenary debate on spending priorities, provisionally scheduled for 13 July. I am writing to Chairs of subject committees to share our thinking.

The Committee has agreed to undertake a number of engagement activities prior to the publication of the Draft Budget, in the autumn. These include, a stakeholder event, focus groups held with the general public, and working with the Youth Parliament.



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Stakeholder Event

Following the restrictions over the past two years, the Committee is delighted to be able to return to holding an in-person stakeholder event to hear directly from interested organisations/individuals on the expected draft budget proposals, as well as the Welsh Government's approach to setting the budget and prioritising resources.

Cross-Committee engagement with stakeholders on the budget is crucial to effective scrutiny and therefore I would like to invite Committee Chairs or a Member of your Committee to join the event which will take place on the morning of Wednesday 15 June at Llanhilleth Miners Institute, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent. If Chairs or Members are interested in attending, please contact the clerking team seneddfinance@senedd.wales by 1 June 2022.

Focus groups with the Welsh public

On behalf of the Committee, the Senedd's Citizens Engagement Team will be holding a series of focus groups on the Draft Budget with the Welsh public. The team undertook a similar exercise last year and will facilitate focus sessions over the summer term, asking the same or similar questions posed last year. The aim of this work is to improve public understanding and engagement with the Welsh Budget process. In addition, over the longer-term we hope to form a longitudinal study to allow the Committee to monitor perspectives and attitudes over time. Participants will be sourced through similar partner organisations to cover the same demographics as last year, and groups will be organised to focus on particular policy areas.

The Citizens Engagement Team will circulate the dates of sessions to all Committees, should any Members wish to participate. This will allow an opportunity for Members to hear first-hand from the citizens of Wales where spending should be prioritised.

Youth Parliament

To further complement our engagement work, the Committee has agreed to work with the Youth Parliament. Members of the Youth Parliament will be invited to take part in their own focus group session before the summer. It is hoped this will allow the best opportunity for Youth Parliament Members to influence the Welsh Government spending priorities.

Finance Committee Plenary Debate on the Welsh Government spending priorities

As mentioned above, the Committee intends to hold a Plenary debate on Wednesday 13 July on the Welsh Government's spending priorities for 2023-24. The outcomes of our engagement work will inform and feed into this debate. We



believe this debate allows the best opportunity for Members to potentially influence the Welsh Government's spending priorities prior to the formulation of the Draft Budget in the autumn.

Approach to Budget scrutiny

I will shortly be writing to Chairs, with regard to the Committee's approach to budget scrutiny, including information on the consultation and timetable. Whilst the Finance Committee's core function is to undertake financial scrutiny of the Welsh Government and associated public bodies, financial scrutiny should be embedded into the scrutiny work undertaken by all Committees. Therefore, I would welcome suggestions from Chairs to explore ways of working collaboratively to ensure the most effective financial scrutiny of the Welsh Government.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the Draft Budget process, please feel free to contact me or the Clerk to the Finance Committee, Owain Roberts, 0300 200 6388, seneddfinance@senedd.wales.

Yours sincerely



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

