

Michelle Morris
Public Service Ombudsman for Wales

13 October 2022

Dear Michelle

Estimate 2023-24

Thank you for attending the Finance Committee yesterday to present your Estimate for 2023-24. The Committee has considered your Estimate and the evidence you provided, but is unable to support your request for £5.9m, an increase of £584k (11%) compared to the cash requirement for 2022-23 of £5.3m.

We are supportive of your ambitious plans and recognise the potential benefits that these plans will deliver for the wider public sector, however, we are also acutely aware of the current economic and fiscal climate and the funding pressures across the public sector in Wales.

As you will be aware, we also consider the funding requests from the other directly funded bodies. The Senedd Commission has sought an increase of 4.1% and we will be considering Audit Wales' Estimate on 9 November. Whilst we consider each budget request on its own merits, we must also be mindful of the overall call on the Welsh Consolidated Fund particularly during times of economic constraint.

Therefore, the Committee invites you to reflect on your funding priorities and consider where changes can be made. We are also grateful to you for confirming that you will adjust your Estimate accordingly to take into account the decrease in National Insurance contributions, which will take effect from 6 November 2022.

As required by Standing Order 20.24, we are consulting with you to request a reduction in funding and would be grateful if you could reconsider your 2023-24 Estimate and submit a modified Estimate to the Committee by Wednesday 19 October 2022. However, should you wish to make representations with regard to



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our request, please inform the Finance Committee Clerk (Leanne Hatcher, Leanne.Hatcher@Senedd.wales) at the earliest opportunity, but no later than 17 October 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peredur Owen Griffiths', written in a cursive style.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

