

CYPE(6)-23-22 – Paper to note 12

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Minister for Education and Welsh Language
Jeremy Miles MS

8 November 2022

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2023-24

Dear Jeremy,

As last year, we would like written information to support our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2023-24. The annex to this letter sets out in detail the information that we would like to receive.

As you may know, Senedd officials have coordinated requests from all Senedd committees to arrange with Welsh Government officials when the Welsh Ministers and Deputy Ministers will give evidence on the Draft Budget. We have requested that you and your officials appear before Committee at 9.30am to 11am on 11 January 2023.

I would be grateful to receive the written information no later than 16 December 2022. I note that the Welsh Government intends to publish the Draft Budget on 13 December 2022. Please contact my clerk if you are concerned about meeting our proposed deadline in light of the budget timetable.

Given the shared interest across committees in some of the areas listed in the annex to this letter, I have copied in the chairs of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee and the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS

Chair

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Annex A: Request to the Minister for Education and Welsh Language regarding the CYPE Committee's Draft Budget scrutiny 2023-24

Our approach to scrutiny of the Draft Budget

Our financial scrutiny aims to ensure accountability, promote better decision making and improve value for money. It will follow four key principles, which have been followed in previous years:

- **Affordability:** to look at the big picture of total revenue and expenditure, and whether these are appropriately balanced.
- **Prioritisation:** whether the division of allocations between different sectors/programmes is justifiable and coherent.
- **Value for money:** essentially, are public bodies spending their allocations well – economy, efficiency and effectiveness (i.e.) outcomes.
- **Budget processes:** are they effective and accessible and whether there is integration between corporate and service planning and performance and financial management.

Cross-cutting areas

Transparency of budget presentation

Like last year, we request a clear, transparent explanation of changes to the overall Education and Welsh Language MEG in 2023-24, from 2022-23, including both a comparison with the actual budget in addition to any revised baseline which is used. We would also appreciate a summary of the key changes between 2022-23 and 2023-24.

If a revised baseline is used, we request a breakdown of amounts which have been removed from or added to the 2022-23 budget and an explanation in each case of why it is deemed appropriate to use the revised baseline rather the actual budget set in 2022-23 for comparisons.

For significant changes to budget lines, we request an explanation of whether money is being taken from/returned to central reserves or allocated from/to other budget lines either within or outside the MEG.

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

We request commentary on each of the Actions within the 2023-24 Education and Welsh Language MEG, including an analysis and explanation of significant changes since the 2022-23 First Supplementary Budget (June 2022).

We also request a breakdown of the 2023-24 Education and Welsh Language MEG by Spending Programme Area (if applicable), Action, and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL), with 2022-23 First Supplementary Budget allocations, forecast 2022-23 outturns, and 2021-22 final outturns all included. If indicative budgets are being set beyond 2023-24, we request details of those as well.

If the Welsh Government uses a revised baseline budget for comparative purposes, we request that the actual 2022-23 First Supplementary Budget allocations are also presented as well as an explanation of the reasons for the re-calculation of the baseline (as mentioned earlier).

Education priorities and other strategic priorities

Information on how the Education and Welsh Language MEG aligns with, and is prioritised according to, the Welsh Government's relevant priorities and key objectives, including:

- An assessment from the Minister on the extent to which he believes the Education and Welsh Language MEG contains the resources necessary to deliver Welsh Government priorities and key objectives,
- Information on any ongoing negotiations with the Minister for Finance and Local Government to maximise the level of resources available for education, including funding for schools' core budgets through the Local Government Settlement.
- Details of how allocations to and within the Education and Welsh Language MEG align with the Programme for Government and the Co-operation Agreement.
- Whether, and if so how, the Minister intends to target resources at addressing any cross-cutting themes or priorities across the MEG as a whole, for example the next phases of management of and recovery from the pandemic, the cost of living, tackling the negative impact of disadvantage on learners' outcomes, the Welsh language, giving effect to children's rights and supporting learners with their physical, emotional and mental health.

Children's rights and other cross-cutting considerations

As we recommended last year, and as our predecessor Committee continually advocated, we believe a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) should be undertaken for the Draft Budget as a whole and published as a standalone document, prior to being incorporated in the overall Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment.

We believe this is vital to demonstrate that the Welsh Government is meeting the requirements of the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure. Publishing a CRIA is in line with the

arrangements the Welsh Government itself has put in place, which has established the CRIA as 'the agreed' mechanism to support Ministers to meet the duties under that Measure in both the **Children's Rights Scheme itself** and the associated **Children's Rights Scheme: manual for Welsh Government staff**.

In terms of the Education and Welsh Language MEG specifically, we request:

- A copy of the completed **children's rights impact assessment template** for this draft Education and Welsh Language MEG for 2023-24 which sets out how children's rights are put into effect in these budget allocations, with reference to specific articles in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as relevant.
- If a specific CRIA has not been undertaken, the reasons for this.
- A copy of any alternative integrated impact assessment as well as assurances that this assessment demonstrates that the duty of "due regard" to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has been exercised.
- Information about how equalities, sustainability and the Welsh language have been considered in budget allocations.
- Information on the account taken of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in making allocations to budget lines within the Education and Welsh Language MEG.
- Details and/or examples of any changes made to initial allocations within the Education and Welsh Language MEG following considerations of children's rights, equalities, sustainability, the Welsh language, or the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 as a result of impact assessments, or where these assessments have had a direct influence on the setting of budgets.

Costs of legislation

- Details of allocations within the 2023-24 budget intended for the implementation of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 and associated qualifications reform.
- Details of allocations for implementing the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the wider ALN Transformation Programme.
- Details of allocations within the 2023-24 budget intended for the implementation of the PCET reforms, including any costs associated with the Tertiary Education and Research Act.
- Information on the financial impact of any relevant UK Parliament legislation.



- Financial implications in 2022-23 of any relevant subordinate legislation.

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

- Information on the impact of the pandemic on the Education and Welsh Language MEG in 2022-23 and any ongoing implications in 2023-24, including an update on budget arrangements for meeting these for example whether there remains a central COVID-19 Reserve or if budgets are now expected to absorb costs.
- Details and breakdown of the funding allocated for the education sector's response to the pandemic, in 2021-22 and 2022-23, plus any allocation in 2022-23 (essentially an update to paragraphs 1.6.3-1.6.6 of last year's paper).
- The status of the "Renew and Reform" COVID-19 education recovery plan and whether it continues to attract dedicated funding.

Impact of Brexit

- An update on whether there are any specific financial implications for the 2023-24 Education and Welsh Language MEG from the UK's withdrawal from the EU, and any allocations made to mitigate these.

Impact of cost of living pressures on delivery of education services

- Information on the implications of cost of living pressures and high energy prices on the operational delivery of education institutions – across early years, schools, colleges, universities and training providers.

Budget monitoring

- Information on the processes in place for monitoring budgets throughout the year, identifying potential deficits and surpluses, and taking remedial action or allocating additional funds to cover any shortfalls, particularly in light of the pandemic.
- Details of any changes to the 2022-23 Education and Welsh Language MEG that are already anticipated in the Second Supplementary Budget.

Specific areas

Funding for school budgets

- An explanation of how the Welsh Government has prioritised funding for schools in the 2023-24 Draft Budget (in both the Finance and Local Government MEG and the Education

and Welsh Language MEG) and taken account of the Sibieta review of school spending in its approach to setting this budget.

- An update on the work the Welsh Government is carrying out with stakeholders to consider amendments to the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010 (referred to in the Minister's letter to the Committee dated 20 July 2022).
- Any consideration which has been given in the setting of the 2023-24 budget to reflect Sibieta's recommendation that greater prioritisation should be given to school sixth forms.

Funding for school improvement

- An explanation of how the Draft Budget 2023-24 supports school improvement and raising standards of education.
- Details of the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG) allocations in 2022-23, broken down by 'objective' and funding description (or whichever headings are appropriate) – essentially an update to Annex E of last year's paper.
- Details of how much RCSIG was paid to each consortium and/or local authority in 2022-23.
- Information on the Education Improvement Grant element of the RCSIG and an update on how the Welsh Government is ensuring this is strategically used and its impact evaluated.
- An update on the planned review of the RCSIG (referred to in the Minister's letter dated 22 July 2022).

The cost of living and reducing the impact of deprivation on educational outcomes

- Information on how resources within the Education and Welsh Language MEG are being used to meet the Welsh Government's long-term commitment to reduce the impact of deprivation on educational outcomes (in light of the Minister's commitment to taking decisions through the lens of the needs of learners and their well-being, with a focus on narrowing educational inequalities and ensuring the best outcomes for all).
- Details of budget provision for the Pupil Development Grant (PDG) and the PDG Access fund and explanation of how these will continue to be targeted at the most disadvantaged pupils, given the main qualifying criteria (eligibility for free school meals) is moving to universal provision in primary schools.

- Information on how resources within the Education and Welsh Language MEG are being used to support learners in post-16 education with the impact of cost of living pressures, and to address the impact of deprivation on outcomes (including, for example, through additional hardship funding for providers, or through existing student support funding such as the Education Maintenance Allowance).
- The costs of the expansion of free school meals in 2022-23, 2023-24 and future years, and an update on the schedule for extending FSM throughout all primary school age groups.
- A further breakdown of the funding provided to local authorities to support the expansion of free school meals (in line with the recommendation of the Finance Committee on the First Supplementary Budget 2022-23).
- Any other funding within the Education and Welsh Language MEG for initiatives to tackle the cost of living and the deprivation/attainment negative correlation, for example holiday hunger and school holiday enrichment/summer of fun projects.

Education workforce

- Details of budget allocations to finance Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and professional learning for current teachers, including in light of the ongoing implementation of education reforms.
- Information on funding provided by the Welsh Government to the Education Workforce Council.
- Details of funding for local authorities towards meeting the costs of the teachers' pay award for academic year 2022/23 including a breakdown between the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years and the respective mechanisms used (whether direct grant or incorporated into the local government settlement).
- Information on any funding to support policy regarding the supply teaching workforce.

Curriculum reform

- Information on funding to support the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales, including professional learning for the workforce.

Emotional and mental health of children and young people

- Budget provision from the Education and Welsh Language MEG in 2023-24 for the whole-school/system approach to emotional and mental health.

- Details of funding from the Health and Social Services MEG to complement work in schools on this area.
- Information on any budget provision to support the emotional and mental health of young people in post-16 education.
- Details of funding for any additional or tailored initiatives to support children and young people's mental health in education settings during the COVID-19 pandemic and current cost of living pressures.
- Budget provision for the action plan and wider response to tackle peer on peer sexual harassment among learners.

Pupil absence

- Information on any specific budget provision to address rates of pupil absence or an identification of which budget lines support such work more generally.

Sport and physical activity

- Information on how the Education and Welsh Language MEG supports the provision of sport and physical activity for children and young people, whether inside or outside school, and how this relates to any funding in the Health and Social Services MEG such as for Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales.

Support for Minority Ethnic and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller learners

- Details of funding to support the education of Minority Ethnic and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller learners in 2023-24 and how this is being distributed.

Additional Learning Needs

- An updated assessment of the pressures facing local authorities, schools, and colleges in delivering current SEN/ALN provision, the impact of additional funding in previous years and whether further additional funding will be provided in 2023-24.
- Information on funding provision for the ALN Transformation Programme and the implementation of the 2018 Act, including an updated assessment of whether the Welsh Government believes the ALN reforms will be cost-neutral.
- The latest position on funding for the training of educational psychologists in Wales and the grant funding arrangement with Cardiff University.

Estyn

- Details of Estyn's core budget allocation for 2023-24 from the Finance and Local Government MEG and details of any additional funding from the Education and Welsh Language MEG for Estyn's role in education reforms.

Qualifications

- Details of funding allocated to Qualifications Wales in 2023-24 and details of any additional funding for its work on qualifications reform in the context of the new Curriculum for Wales.
- Whether any additional funding is anticipated for Qualifications Wales or WJEC for the awarding of qualifications in 2023 in the context of any special arrangements due to the impact of the pandemic.

Welsh-medium education

- Details of budget provision to support the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium education strategy and local authorities' Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs), as well as the education sector's role in meeting the Cymraeg 2050 target of one million Welsh speakers.
- Information on funding allocated for enhancing the Welsh in education workforce and supporting both learners and schools to move along the Welsh language continuum.

Early years education and childcare

- Information on budget provision to support the harmonisation of funding rates in early years education and childcare and whether the arrangement in 2021-22 (contributions from both the Education and Welsh Language MEG and the Health and Social Services MEG) continued in 2022-23 and will do so in 2023-24.
- Details of any other funding from the Education and Welsh Language MEG to support the non-maintained sector's delivery of early years education and the Curriculum for Wales (recognising that childcare is not in this Minister's portfolio).

Youth work

- Details of how the 2023-24 Education and Welsh Language MEG supports statutory and voluntary youth services and budget provision for meeting the Programme for Government commitments in respect of strengthening youth services.
- Details of how the 2023-24 Education and Welsh Language MEG supports the Youth Work Strategy for Wales and the work of the Implementation Board.

Offender learning

- Information on budget provision in 2023-24, how this compares to previous years and how it is spent.

Further education, sixth forms and adult community learning

- Details of the complete 2022-23 allocations to further education colleges, to include the amounts of all components of the allocation (i.e. full-time, part-time, part-time allowance, deprivation, sparsity and Welsh-medium allowances, maintenance allowance and the Adult Learning Wales adjustment).
- Details of any hypothecated funding to further education institutions or Sixth Forms beyond their usual core grants.
- Details of any funding provided in the 2023-24 budget for achieving pay parity and/or to meet any pay award to further education institutions and Sixth Forms, including an explanation as to the sufficiency of the funding to meet in full any agreed pay award / pay equivalency over the period of this budget.
- Details of the complete 2023-24 Sixth Form allocation broken down by each local authority.
- A copy of the most recent Further Education Financial Forecast Planning Assumptions guidance issued to FEIs.
- The allocation for Adult Community Learning broken down by the relevant bodies that directly receive the funding.
- The complete 2022-23 and 2023-24 programme values used in the calculation of FE and Sixth Form funding.

Higher education, and post-16 student financial support

- Details of the HEFCW allocation, including details of any hypothecated funding, or funding which is intended for specific activities including mental health and student well-being.
- Details of any 2023-24 allocation intended for the delivery of degree apprenticeships and if it is intended to be used to recruit new apprentices or to teach out existing apprentices.
- Details of any capital funding to be made available to HEFCW, including any restrictions to be placed on it by the Welsh Government.

- Details of any contingencies / reserves / non-allocated funds within any of the 2023-24 tertiary education related BELs, including the BELs within the post-16 Learner Support Action; details of how the funds are / can be deployed; and details of any deployment of them during 2022-23.
- **Grants:** A table showing the 2021-22 outturn, and forecast expenditure over the following four years (broken down by students studying in Wales and elsewhere in the UK) for:
 - Full-time undergraduate (FTUG) Tuition Fee Grant
 - FTUG Maintenance Grant
 - Part-time undergraduate (PTUG) Tuition Fee Grant
 - PTUG Maintenance Grant
 - Masters Finance grant element
 - Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)
 - Welsh Government Learning Grant (Further Education) (WGLG(FE))
 - Targeted grants and allowances.
- **Loans provision:** A table showing the 2021-22 outturn, and forecast loan outlay over the following four years (broken down by students studying in Wales and elsewhere in the UK) for:
 - FTUG tuition fee and maintenance loan outlay and Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) charge
 - PTUG tuition fee and maintenance loan outlay and RAB charge
 - Masters Finance loan element outlay and RAB charge
 - Doctoral loan outlay and RAB charge.

Other post-16 education provision

- Details of Personal Learning Account funding
- Details of the Welsh in Education budget including any allocation for the Coleg Cenedlaethol.
- Details of funding for the International Learning Exchange Programme.

Young Person's Guarantee

- Details of budget provision from the Education and Welsh Language MEG which contributes to the Young Person's Guarantee.

Capital funding for school and college infrastructure

- Information on budget provision for the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme and progress of the programme to date, including expenditure and numbers of projects completed/approved to date, broken down by Band A and Band B.
- The implications of the increases to energy prices and the cost of living for the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, including any impact on the progress and costs of projects.
- The financial implications from the Welsh Government's carbon net zero policies and how this affects the 2023-24 draft budget.

Capital funding for childcare

- Information on capital funding from the Education and Welsh Language MEG for the Childcare Offer and Flying Start programme, including the impact of revised eligibility and entitlement.

Capital funding for the Community Focused Schools initiative

- Information on budget provision for the Community Hubs and Community Learning Centres grant and an update on progress in increasing the community focused nature of education estates and adapting premises for community use.