

Mark Drakeford MS

First Minister

Welsh Government

30 November 2022

Providing oral evidence for Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2023-24

Dear First Minister,

The Committee was informed last week by officials that you would not be giving oral evidence relating to the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2023-24. We were told that this is because you have previously agreed to attend one Committee meeting per year, which will coincide with the publication of the annual report on international relations.

The Committee was disappointed to learn of this response, and we would note that Ministers would usually attend scrutiny separate scrutiny sessions relating to policy, legislation and budgets. We note that the international relations policy areas for which you have responsibility have specified funding, and that external organisations and delivery partners are in receipt of funding from this budget area. As a Committee, we are acutely aware that the cost of living crisis will place yet more pressure on governmental departments to take difficult decisions relating to spending, and we would wish to be able to scrutinise how these decisions will affect the budget areas for which you hold responsibility.

As you will not be available to provide oral evidence, the Committee would be grateful to receive a detailed response to the points outlined to you in the letter dated 8 November 2022, and we would be grateful to receive this by 14 December 2022. The Committee would also request that you respond to any follow-up letter requesting further information after the Committee has had time to consider the evidence provided in your initial written evidence. We would ask that a response be provided as a matter of urgency in order to inform our report ahead of the deadline on 6 February 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS

Chair of the Culture, Communication, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee



Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.