

Minister for Social Justice

Jane Hutt MS

8 November 2022

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2023-24

Dear Jane,

To support our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2023-24, we would appreciate some information from you to compliment the information we have requested from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language and the Minister for Health and Social Care.

We would be very grateful if you could provide us with:

- Your overall views on the Draft Budget 2023-34 from an equality and social justice perspective insofar as it relates to children and young people.
- Your views about any sections of the population of children and young people who are likely to be particularly affected by spending decisions within the Draft Budget 2023-24 (e.g. vulnerable groups).
- Information about:
 - How you work with the Minister for Health and Social Care and her Deputies, and the Minister for Education and Welsh Language, to ensure that their budgets advance equality and social justice.
 - How you co-ordinate measures to mitigate Child Poverty across the Cabinet, and your assessment of any costs associated with the development and delivery of the refreshed Child Poverty Strategy, anticipated in 2023.
 - Any discussions you have had with the Minister for Education and Welsh Language in respect of allocations for:



- the impact of child poverty of educational outcomes, including the Pupil Development Grant;
 - the planned spending intended to deliver the Welsh Government's objective to narrow attainment gaps across all ages;
 - digital inclusion, and any assessment of the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic and associated use of technology and has led to an increased reliance on learners using their own digital devices and any costs allocated to mitigate this;
 - financial inclusion and its link with the new curriculum; and
 - widening access to higher education among young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and supporting students whilst at university to further social justice and social mobility.
- Allocations for the work of the office of the Children's Commissioner.

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 above, I have copied in the chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.