



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

24 January 2023

Dear Jenny,

Draft Budget 2023-24

Thank you for the invitation to appear before the Equality and Social Justice Committee on 16 January, I hope you found my evidence helpful. I am pleased to provide below the follow up information you requested in your letter of 19 January and look forward to receiving your report in due course.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Grant

The Gypsy and Traveller Sites has a capital budget of £3.690m in the 22-23 financial year. To date, there has been no spend against this Budget Expenditure Line in this financial year and none is forecast to occur before 31 March 2023.

Funding allocated for deliver of the LGBTQ+ action plan

The Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights BEL in my MEG includes funding of £456,000 to deliver the elements of the LGBTQ+ Action Plan that are within my responsibility. The total expected spend on delivery of the action plan in 2023-24 is £774,000. The remainder of the funding will come from budgets across the Health, Education and Economy portfolios.

Further detail on the work of the third sector partnership council relating to sustainability of funding and confirmation that Welsh Government Third Sector grants are normally awarded on a three-year basis, unless there are exceptional circumstances

Through the Third Sector Partnership Council and its Funding and Compliance sub-committee, we are currently reviewing our code of practice for funding the voluntary sector. The review is aimed at improving the funding relationship between voluntary and public sectors, by creating an environment that enables the voluntary sector to be more sustainable. The sub-committee will be consulting with the voluntary, public and private sectors on the 5 key principles which have been identified late spring 2023.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We have previously recognised that, in general, longer-term funding is beneficial in terms of making better planning decisions to enable the continuity of service and support, including for the most vulnerable members of society, as well reducing bureaucracy and aiding the sustainability of voluntary organisations.

Historically the Welsh Government has grant funded most organisations by issuing award letters on an annual basis. Although funding for longer periods has always been an option, these decisions have been on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of individual policy areas.

From early 2022, all new competitive grants can, unless Ministers or other factors dictate otherwise, be awarded for up to 3 years, with a benchmarking exercise to assess performance at the end of that period. Subject to the outcome of the benchmarking the grant scheme can, if required, then be extended for a further 3 years. However, the duration of the grant scheme should also be dependent on the needs of the policy area. This policy is applicable across Welsh Government.

Total amount of funding allocated to the Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units

The total amount of funding allocated to the Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units for the financial year 2023-24 is £1,635,650. The budget is made up of staff costs, to carry out research and statistical activities, a research budget to commission research and a small amount of operational costs to support recruitment and staff on-boarding.

It is expected this will roughly be split as follows:

- Staffing – 74%
- Evidence – 24%
- Operational – 2%

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice