

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair
Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff
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SeneddFinance@senedd.wales

20 April 2023

Dear Peredur,

I wish to update the Finance Committee on newly acquired evidence regarding the costs of implementing the Food Wales Bill (FWB).

The [Explanatory Memorandum](#) accompanying the FWB states '*assumptions have been made following liaison with Scottish Government officials who produced cost estimates for the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill.*' (para 331). Following my officials' regular communications with their counterparts in Scottish Government some more up-to-date estimates for the costs of implementing the FWB have come to light.

The cost estimates for comparable elements of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 have increased significantly compared to those which the Scottish Government originally anticipated when it was a Bill and which informed the FWB Explanatory Memorandum. This means the estimates quoted in the Explanatory Memorandum for the costs to the Welsh Government and public bodies in Wales of implementing the FWB, are certainly significant underestimates. I draw your attention to the table below which sets out the estimated costs taken directly from the FWB's Explanatory Memorandum and matched with the up to date costs which Scottish Government has now calculated.

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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.

Cost Element	Food (Wales) Bill estimated costs (based on 2022 estimated costs of Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill)	Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act – Scottish Gov estimated costs March 2023
WG officials' time to create National Food Strategy and establish Food Commission.	£20,960 ^[1] pa	£227,600 pa for team of five (mixed full and part time) officials, excluding deputy director sign off, and support input from legal advisers, economists, comms and input from non-food teams.
Food Commission	bt £750,000 - £1,500,000	£1.1 million p.a.
Local Food Plans	£21,687 per Local Authority/Health Board ^[2]	£46,969 - £61,186 p.a. estimated costs for one member of staff per Local Authority depending on grade of staff.

1 [Explanatory Memorandum](#) para 325 Table 4 and para 374

2 [Explanatory Memorandum](#) para 409

I am copying this letter to the chair of the ETRAC and to Mr. Fox MS.

Regards,



Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

cc: Mr. Paul Davies, Chair of the ETRAC
Mr Peter Fox, MS.

^[1] [Explanatory Memorandum](#) para 325 Table 4, para 374

^[2] [Explanatory Memorandum](#) para 409