



Our Ref: RE/132/2023

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair of Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations
Committee
Senedd Cymru/ Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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28 April 2023

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 4th April regarding the consequential funding the Welsh Government will receive as a result of £63m additional funding for swimming pools in England, announced in the UK Government's Spring Budget, on 15 March. I am also replying on behalf of the Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport.

I can confirm that the Welsh Government will receive a total consequential of £3.54m in 2023-24 as a result of this measure, comprising £1.153m revenue and £2.307m capital. There are no consequentials anticipated for 2024-25 for this measure. We have yet to receive the funding from HM Treasury, but it is expected to flow through as part of the 2023-24 Main Estimates process, which is currently ongoing.

The Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport is acutely aware of, and equally concerned about, the pressures the current energy and cost of living crises are having on the sport and leisure sector. The Welsh Government has called on the UK Government, which retains the main policy levers for responding to these pressures, to use its levers and provide enhanced support for swimming pools. While the UK Government's decision to extend the replacement Energy Bills Discount Scheme is welcome, it is extremely disappointing that leisure centres and swimming pools will continue to be excluded by the UK Government from receiving the level of support they need.

Welsh Ministers will continue to provide all possible support to the sport and leisure sector. Our annual budget, approved by the Senedd on 7th March, provided £16m of capital funding to Sport Wales over the next two years, which will support the sector to upgrade sport facilities, including swimming pools, with energy saving measures.

I would also highlight that funding for swimming pools and leisure centres is provided to local authorities through the Local Government settlement. Despite the challenging financial

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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.

situation, we have agreed significant additional investment for Local Government for 2023-24 which will enable local authorities to continue to deliver the services their communities need.

This was reflected in the provision of substantial funding to local authorities as part of the 23-24 Budget. In 2023-24, local authorities will receive £5.5 billion from the Welsh Government in core revenue funding and non-domestic rates to spend on delivering key services. This equates to an increase of 7.9% or £403 million on a like-for-like basis compared to the current year. No Authority receives less than an 6.5% increase.

We have not yet allocated the small amount of funding received through the Spring Statement, as the announcement fell later than our Budget publication date. It is an important principle of devolution that consequential funding is not ringfenced for similar purposes in devolved governments. Welsh Ministers are continuing to assess and consider where the greatest impact will be when making funding decisions in line with Welsh circumstances and priorities, noting the range of identified pressures, including active discussions on pay and mitigating the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government