

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and
International Relations Committee**

Rebecca Evans MS
Minister for Finance and Local Government
Welsh Government

Copied to: Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair
Finance Committee

17 July 2023

Draft Budget 2024-25 timetable

Dear Rebecca

The Committee discussed the Finance Committee's letter to you (dated 7 July 2023) at its meeting on 12 July 2023. The Committee echoes the concerns raised by the Finance Committee regarding the outline timetable for scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2024-25.

As noted in the Finance Committee's letter, this is the fifth year running whereby the two stage process as set out in the Budget Process Protocol ("the Protocol") has not been followed. The Committee accepts previous reasons for not following the Protocol, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and changes to dates of UK Government fiscal events. On the latter point, the Committee thinks that a better framework is needed for fiscal decisions taken across the UK - in order to provide better clarity surrounding when important financial choices will be made. This would benefit the Welsh Government as well as a number of other bodies which are reliant on timely decisions, such as publicly-sponsored bodies and local authorities. The Committee would urge you to raise this with other finance ministers in the governments of the United Kingdom.

Yours sincerely



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Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.