

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee

2 August 2023

Budget timetable 2024–25 and budget procedures

Dear Peredur,

Thank you for your response of 7 July regarding the proposed timetable for the 2024–25 budget. Business Committee noted your concerns on the timetable at its meeting on 11 July.

We note that the Welsh Government is again proposing to deviate from the Budget Process Protocol agreed upon on a cross-party basis between the Senedd and the Government in 2017. We are also aware of the general concerns expressed by a number of committee chairs regarding the timescales for budget scrutiny in recent years, particularly as it falls over the Christmas recess period, and the difficulties for scrutiny that this can create.

The Trefnydd confirmed that these issues have arisen again this year due to uncertainty surrounding the timing of the UK Government's autumn fiscal event. The Trefnydd also informed us that the Minister for Finance and Local Government intends to respond to a number of your concerns in writing.

While we share your apprehensions, Business Committee agreed the proposed timetable, taking into consideration the Trefnydd's willingness to reassess the publication dates of the draft budget if the Chancellor's announcement regarding



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the autumn fiscal event is sufficiently early to allow additional time for preparation and scrutiny.

Given your observation questioning the Welsh Government's ongoing commitment to the aforementioned Protocol, the Business Committee resolved to invite the Finance Committee to consider whether it now wishes review the continued suitability of the budget protocol and related procedures in light of the experience of recent years.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to further engagement and dialogue on these important issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elin', is positioned below the closing text.

Rt. Hon Elin Jones MS

Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

cc. Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government

