



Ein cyf/Our ref: LG/PO/217/2023

Elin Jones MS  
Llywydd  
Chair of Business Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

[SeneddBusiness@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddBusiness@senedd.wales)

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

Dear Elin,

Under Standing Order 20, as Minister with responsibility for Senedd Business, I am required to write to the Business Committee two weeks before the end of the summer term to set out a timetable for when the 2024-2025 Draft Budget will be laid, and the annual budget motion will be tabled.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has not yet published the date of the fiscal event in which we will learn the precise details of our budget settlement for the financial year 2024-25. While we already have indicative budget allocations under the multi-year Spending Review, the subsequent and substantial inflationary pressures coupled with significant uncertainty until we receive confirmation of our final settlement means we are likely to face challenging choices once our settlement is known. As a result, this means that once again we are obliged to recognise that the only prudent choice is to follow a budget timetable similar to the one employed in recent years, where we publish our draft budget late in the autumn term.

Publishing a draft budget when learning details of our final budget settlement at such a late stage presents challenges for both the development of departmental spending plans and their scrutiny by the Senedd. The timetable we intend to follow recognises the need to provide sufficient time to ensure we can effectively undertake our budget preparations and provide an appropriate level of detail in our budget documentation, while also ensuring the maximum available time for scrutiny in the Senedd.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales)

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.

Standing Order 20.6 makes provision for the Committee to make changes to the timetable at the request of the Government. Subject to this, and on the understanding that we will provide a firm timetable as soon as possible after the UK Government has made an announcement regarding its Budget, I wish to indicate now that we are planning to publish the outline and detailed draft Budgets together on **12 December 2023**, and the final Budget on **27 February 2024**.

In proposing these dates, I am mindful of both Standing Order 20.5 and the arrangements agreed between the Welsh Government and the Welsh Parliament regarding the period provided for scrutiny. Standing Order 20.5 provides, in 'normal' circumstances, for the Finance Committee to be given eight weeks to report on the outline budget proposals and five weeks for committees to consider the detailed Budget proposals. Whilst this cannot be termed a 'normal' year under the current version of Standing Orders and the Budget Protocol, we remain committed to ensuring the fullest possible scrutiny of our spending proposals. As a result, the timetable I have set out would enable 7 weeks and four days for scrutiny of the draft Budget, comprising 4 sitting weeks and four days and 3 non-sitting weeks.

These dates would require the Finance Committee to publish its report on the Draft Budget on or before Monday 5 February to enable the debate on the Draft Budget to take place on Tuesday 6 February. The Minister for Finance and Local Government has discussed this with the Chair of the Finance Committee to ask if this arrangement can be accommodated.

The Minister is writing formally to the chair of the Finance Committee to seek the Committee's understanding given the circumstances. The Minister and I would like to take the opportunity at Business Committee to seek confirmation from my fellow Business Managers that they would be similarly supportive.

I am grateful for the Committee's understanding and trust these arrangements are acceptable given the circumstances, which are driven by external factors beyond our immediate control.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a light grey or blue ink on a white background.

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