



Ein cyf/Our ref: RE-253-2023

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

Dear Delyth,

Timetable for the 2024-25 budget

I am replying to your letter dated 17th July, which addresses issues raised by the Finance Committee's letter to the Business Committee dated 7th July regarding the timetable for the 2024-25 budget.

I have attached a copy of my letter dated 19th July, which responds to the issues raised by the Finance Committee.

The uncertainty and late timing of successive UK Government fiscal events has impacted adversely on Welsh Government Ministers preparing their spending plans, as well as on other bodies reliant on timely decisions, such as public sponsored bodies and local authorities. Late timing of these fiscal events has also resulted in shorter budget timetables, reducing the time available to the Senedd and others seeking to scrutinise our spending plans.

I have raised these concerns directly with successive Chief Secretaries to the Treasury in correspondence and alongside the other devolved Finance Ministers at the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee. I am also grateful to the Finance Committee for the efforts it has made in raising this with the UK Government.

I will continue to press the UK Government to commit to publishing its Autumn Budget as early as possible but given the timing of UK Autumn fiscal events in recent years and the uncertain fiscal context, it is prudent to be prepared for a potentially late UK Autumn Budget again this year.

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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.

It remains the Welsh Government's long-term aim for there to be a single UK needs-based fiscal framework, agreed by all Governments and independently operated and assured. This would provide an effective framework for fiscal decisions taken across the UK which respects the impact on the financial planning in the devolved governments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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