

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair of Finance Committee  
Senedd Cymru/ Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA  
[SeneddFinance@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddFinance@senedd.wales)

8 September 2023

Dear Peredur,

### **Evidence papers supporting the 2024-25 Draft Budget**

Following our constructive meeting and my subsequent response to your letter dated 23rd June regarding Senedd Committees' comments on Ministers' Draft Budget evidence papers, we agreed for our officials to work together to produce a template for the evidence papers.

I am keen for this to continue over the coming weeks as we enter the next Budget setting process. It would be helpful to move forward with these discussions with a clear indication from the Committee on what you would anticipate as essential for inclusion in ministerial evidence papers. Any proposals you might make should apply to all Main Expenditure Groups (MEGs) rather than focusing on issues relating to a single Minister's spending plans, and I would be grateful if the Finance Committee would provide a single list of proposals on behalf of all Committees.

In previous years, the themes appearing in the Committees' requests have included requests for Ministers to provide information relating to the common themes of affordability, prioritisation, value for money and budget processes.

All proposals provided by the Finance Committee will be considered carefully, and I would envisage that any proposals we agree, and which Ministers are able to implement in the time available, will be included in the single template used to present the written evidence.

It is necessary to acknowledge the particularly difficult circumstances in which we are setting the upcoming Budget. In proposing themes, you may wish to consider how a

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales)  
[Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru)

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.

template can work in all years and not only for in a single year when the economic circumstances are especially challenging.

This year, it is necessary to emphasise how the circumstances influencing the preparation of the Draft Budget are likely to make it impossible for individual Ministers to provide the specific details relating to each MEG requested in previous years. In the time available, Ministers' evidence is likely to focus on explaining any changes from previously published and scrutinised spending plans. As a result, I anticipate Ministers providing any MEG-specific detail in their answers to any questions posed when they attend the Committees in January.

While I am unable to confirm when Ministers will provide their evidence papers to the Committees, I shall confirm this as soon as I am able to do so.

I remain grateful for the Finance Committee's continuing input as we work together to improve the presentation of the Draft Budget and its scrutiny. In this regard, I would like to repeat my offer for the Senedd Committees with responsibility for scrutinising the Draft Budget to receive the technical briefing that has, hitherto, only been provided to the clerking team.

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**