

Dear Colleague,

## **A call for information – Welsh Government Draft Budget proposals for 2024-25**

The Committees of the Welsh Parliament are seeking information to inform their scrutiny of the Welsh Government's 2024-25 Draft Budget proposals. We are interested in exploring expectations of the 2024-25 Budget, including financial readiness for the financial year and the impact of the 2023-24 Budget.

The Welsh Government has announced it is planning to publish the outline and detailed draft budgets together on 19 December 2023, and the final Budget on 27 February 2024.

The **Finance Committee** looks at the Welsh Government's Draft Budget from a strategic, overarching perspective. We also work with the other Senedd Committees to ensure that proposals for specific departments, or ministerial portfolios are considered in detail. Committees will each undertake their own focussed evidence sessions in order to examine the areas of the Budget that fall within their respective remits. Further details on Senedd Committees and the budget process can be found in [Annex 1](#).

In this paper we have detailed specific questions in [Annex 2](#). You can answer any/all of these, or just let us know in general terms about your views in relation to the Draft Budget.

The Finance Committee has undertaken a number of engagement activities, seeking the views of individuals and organisations on areas that should be prioritised in the Welsh Government's Draft Budget. These views were reflected in the [Committee's Summary Engagement report](#) which helped inform a Committee led [Plenary debate on Welsh Government spending priorities](#), held on 12 July 2023.

### **Disclosure of Information**

Before submitting information to the Committee, please ensure that you have considered the [Senedd's policy on disclosure of information](#). Alternatively, a hard copy of this policy can be requested by contacting the Clerk, Owain Roberts (0300 200 6388 [seneddfinance@senedd.wales](mailto:seneddfinance@senedd.wales)).

### **Providing information to the Committee**

Interested parties are invited to submit written evidence to the Clerk of the Finance Committee to arrive by **Thursday 30 November 2023**. If you wish to contribute but are concerned that you won't be able to meet this deadline, please speak with the Committee Clerk on 0300 200 6388.



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The Senedd has two official languages, Welsh and English. In line with the [Senedd's Official Languages Scheme](#), the Committee requests that documents or written responses to consultations intended for publication or use in Senedd proceedings are submitted bilingually. When documents or written responses are not submitted bilingually, we will publish in the language submitted, stating that it has been received in that language only.

We expect other organisations to implement their own standards or schemes and to comply with their statutory obligations.

[Guidance on submitting written evidence to Committee consultations](#) is available on the Senedd's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peredur Owen Griffiths', with a horizontal line drawn through the bottom of the signature.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



## **Annex 1- Background information**

### **Who are we?**

The **Finance Committee** is a cross party committee of the Welsh Parliament, made up of Members from three political parties represented at the Welsh Parliament.

The Committee is not part of the Welsh Government. Rather, the Committee is responsible for reporting on proposals laid before the Welsh Parliament by Welsh Ministers relating to the use of resources.

### **Who are the other Committees involved in scrutinising the Budget?**

The other Committees involved in scrutinising the Budget are:

- Children, Young People and Education Committee
- Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee
- Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee
- Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee
- Equality and Social Justice Committee
- Health and Social Care Committee
- Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
- Local Government and Housing Committee

### **What is the Welsh Government's Draft Budget?**

The Draft Budget proposals must contain details of the amount of resources the Welsh Government proposes to use in the following financial year and indicative figures for the subsequent two financial years. More specifically it should set out:

- the use of resources and cash to be withdrawn from the Welsh Consolidated Fund by the Welsh Government, Senedd Commission, Audit Wales and Public Services Ombudsman for Wales;
- how expenditure proposals will be financed, including taxation and borrowing plans;
- income to be retained by those organisations (rather than being surrendered to the Welsh Consolidated Fund).



The Welsh Government will provide a narrative document which sets out allocations within departments, how proposals align with priorities and desired outcomes. The Welsh Government will also provide forecasts of taxation, borrowing and debt.

**Why are we not issuing this consultation after the Welsh Government's Draft Budget proposals have been published?**

Responding to this consultation will not preclude stakeholders from also providing information, evidence, raising concerns and suggesting areas for scrutiny to Senedd Committees **after** the publication of the Welsh Government's outline and detailed Draft Budget proposals.

However, there is a very limited time for stakeholders to suggest areas of concern to Committees after the detail of the Draft Budget has been published. By undertaking this consultation now, we hope stakeholders will have more time to consider the potential impact of the Budget.



## Annex 2

### Consultation questions

1. What, in your opinion, has been the impact of the Welsh Government's 2023-2024 Budget, including funding related to the recovery of the pandemic? Have Welsh Government business support policies been effective, given the economic outlook for 2024-25?

2. How should/could the Welsh Government support the economy and business following the pandemic, Brexit and inflationary and other economic pressures?

- How financially prepared is your organisation for the 2024-25 financial year, how will inflation impact on your ability to deliver planned objectives, and how robust is your ability to plan for future years?

3. What action should the Welsh Government take to help households cope with inflation and cost of living issues?

- How should the Budget address the needs of people living in urban, post-industrial and rural communities and in supporting economies within those communities?

4. Are Welsh Government plans to build a greener economy clear and sufficiently ambitious? Do you think there is enough investment being targeted at tackling the climate change and nature emergency? Are there any potential skill gaps that need to be addressed to achieve these plans?

6. Is the Welsh Government using the financial mechanisms available to it around borrowing and taxation effectively?

7. The Committee would like to focus on a number of other specific areas in the scrutiny of the Budget. Do you have any specific comments on any of the areas identified below?

- Is enough being done to tackle the rising costs of living and support those people living in relative income poverty?
- How could the budget further address gender inequality in areas such as healthcare, skills and employment?
- Is the Welsh Government's approach to preventative spending represented in resource allocations (Preventative spending = spending which focuses on preventing problems and eases future demand on services by intervening early).
- How should the Welsh Government explain its funding decisions, including how its spending contributes to addressing policy issues?
- How can the documentation provided by the Welsh Government alongside its Draft Budget be improved?



- How should the Welsh Government prioritise its resources to tackle NHS waiting lists for planned and non-urgent NHS treatments. Do you think the Welsh Government has a robust plan to address this issue?
- Is the Welsh Government providing adequate support to the public sector to enable it to be innovative and forward looking through things like workforce planning.
- Has there been adequate investment from the Welsh Government in basic public sector infrastructure.
- Is there enough infrastructure investment targeted at young people?
- How is evidence and data driving Welsh Government priority-setting and budget allocations, and is this approach clear?
- Is the support provided by the Welsh Government for third sector organisations, which face increased demand for services as a consequence of the cost of living crisis and the pandemic, sufficient?
- What are the key opportunities for the Welsh Government to invest in supporting an economy and public services that better deliver against the well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations Act?

