

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

SeneddBusiness@senedd.wales

12th September 2024

Dear Elin,

I wish to provide an update on the timetable for the 2024-25 Welsh Government Budget.

Before the summer recess, I confirmed the Welsh Government's intention to publish the Budget on 12th December but advised the date was subject to the timing of the UK Government's Autumn Statement.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed in Parliament on 5th September, his Autumn Statement would not take place until Wednesday 22nd November. This is when we will learn details of our Budget settlement for the 2024-25 financial year. Whilst I appreciate this will be disappointing to the Senedd, it is no longer possible for us to publish a Draft Budget within the timetable indicated previously.

We would judge given the potential for significant changes arising from the UK Budget, it would not be possible to produce robust spending plans within the original timetable, nor would we wish to set plans before the Autumn Statement due to the risk of adverse impacts on delivery partners who may make their own plans based on incorrect assumptions.

Standing Order 20.6 provides the Minister with responsibility for Government Business can ask the Business Committee to make subsequent changes to the Budget timetable provided in June. With your agreement, I intend to publish the draft Budget on Tuesday 19th December, which will provide Welsh Ministers with the absolute minimum of 3 weeks and 4 days needed to prepare spending plans and compile the Budget documentation and supporting tables.

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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.

This timeframe seeks to achieve the most workable balance between the time required to produce the Draft Budget, for its scrutiny and to ensure we provide funding certainty to our delivery partners and stakeholders before Christmas. In essence, this will mean adopting a similar timeline to those in several of the years since the UK Government moved to an Autumn fiscal event, with 6 weeks and 4 days being available for Members to scrutinise the Budget before Senedd Committees publish their reports on Monday 5th February.

I intend to schedule the debate on the Draft Budget for Tuesday 6th February. The planned dates for the publication of the Annual Budget and for it to be debated will remain unchanged on 27th February and 5th March respectively.

I will make a Statement as soon as possible on the Draft Budget in the first sitting week in the New Year. I would be grateful for your co-operation in circumstances which are once again influenced by factors beyond our control.

The Minister for Finance and Local Government has written in similar terms to the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'L' and 'G'.

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