

# Concise Minutes – Finance Committee

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Meeting Venue: **Hybrid – Committee room 3, Senedd and video conference via Zoom**

This meeting can be viewed on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13647>

Meeting date: Wednesday, 13 September 2023

Meeting time: 09.30 – 11.50

## Hybrid

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### Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Peredur Owen Griffiths MS (Chair) Peter Fox MS Mike Hedges MS Rhianon Passmore MS
Witnesses:	Jonathan Price, Welsh Government Julian Revell, Welsh Government Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government Emma Watkins, Welsh Government Gawain Evans, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Owain Roberts (Clerk) Mike Lewis (Deputy Clerk) Martin Jennings (Researcher)



**Registration (09.00–09.15)**

**Private Pre-meeting (09.15–09.30)**

**1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the Finance Committee.

**2 Paper(s) to note**

2.1 The papers were noted.

- 2.1 PTN 1 – Letter from the Minister for Health and Social Services: Health Service Procurement (Wales) Bill – Revised timelines – 30 June 2023
- 2.2 PTN 2 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government – Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee – 6 July 2023
- 2.3 PTN 3 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Welsh rates of Income Tax outturn statistics 2021–22 – 7 July 2023
- 2.4 PTN 4 – Letter from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language: School budget overspends – 11 July 2023
- 2.5 PTN 5 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Financial information for Directly Funded Bodies to consider in their budget planning – 12 July 2023
- 2.6 PTN 6 – Letter from the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee: Draft Budget 2024–25 timetable – 17 July 2023
- 2.7 PTN 7 – Letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd: The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill – 13 July 2023
- 2.8 PTN 8 – Letter from the First Minister to the Llywydd: Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Act 2023 – 27 July 2023
- 2.9 PTN 9 – Scrutiny of the Welsh Government First Supplementary Budget 2023–24: Welsh Government response – 11 August 2023
- 2.10 PTN 10 – Letter from the Chair of the Reform Bill Committee – 23 August 2023
- 2.11 PTN 11 – The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill: Welsh Government response – 1 September 2023

**2.12 PTN 12 – Letter to the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Cost of living payment – 11 July 2023**

**2.13 PTN 13 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Cost of living payment – 1 August 2023**

**2.14 PTN 14 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government – Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee – 7 September 2023**

**2.15 PTN 15 – Letter from Audit Wales: Notification of audit deadlines – 3 August 2023**

**2.16 PTN 16 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Evidence papers supporting the 2024–25 Draft Budget – 8 September 2023**

**3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from items 4,5,7,8,9 and 10**

3.1 The motion was agreed.

**4 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25 – Technical briefing with the Chief Economist**

4.1 The Committee received an economic and fiscal briefing from Jonathan Price, Chief Economist, Welsh Government; and Julian Revell, Head of Fiscal Analysis, Welsh Government.

**5 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25 – Technical briefing with the Chief Economist: Consideration of evidence**

5.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.

**6 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25 – Pre-budget scrutiny**

6.1 The Committee took evidence on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25 from Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government; Emma Watkins, Deputy Director, Budget and Government Business; and Gawain Evans Director of Finance.

6.2 The Minister agreed to provide:

- A note on Welsh Rates of Income Tax (WRIT), focusing on how tax collected through WRIT is then realised in Welsh Government budgets.

## **7 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25 – Pre-budget scrutiny: Consideration of evidence**

7.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.

## **8 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25: Approach to budget scrutiny**

8.1 The Committee considered the correspondence and agreed the approach to budget scrutiny and consultation letter.

## **9 Review of the budget protocol**

9.1 The Committee considered the paper on the review of the budget protocol and agreed to write to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

## **10 Future work: Strategic planning**

10.1 The Committee considered the paper on strategic planning.