

**SENEDD RESTRICTED**

September 29<sup>th</sup> 2023

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair of Finance Committee  
Senedd Cymru

Dear Peredur

I write further to our meeting on 12 September where we discussed, among other things, the proposed cost of living payment to Commission staff. On 19 September, a formal offer was made to the Trade Unions. The proposed payment will be the full £1,500 to staff at grades TS to G6 and will be made in two instalments in this financial year at an anticipated total cost of £824,000. The TUS confirmed on 26 September that they are content with the offer made by the Commission for a payment.

As Accounting Officer for the Senedd Commission, I am writing to assure you that the expenditure is affordable, subject to savings being made. The decision to split the payment is to ensure full visibility of the necessary funds at the point of payment. We have worked closely with the Commission seeking their views and advise as we have moved through this process. The Commission have scrutinised and agreed the necessary actions to be taken to afford this payment.

Some of the identified savings required will take longer to crystallise than others in the financial year.

Savings include-

- Training for Members, Support Staff and Commission staff;
- Travel and Subsistence for Committees, International Engagement and Commission staff;
- Reduction in Events undertaken;



**Senedd Cymru**  
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

✉ Contact@senedd.cymru

☎ 0300 200 6565

**Welsh Parliament**  
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

✉ Contact@senedd.wales

☎ 0300 200 6565

- Reduction in purchase of publications;
- A pause in furniture purchases.

A full list of affected budgets is included at Annex 1.

We will continue to closely examine any proposed expenditure which has not yet been committed. Additionally, there will be a pause to most of the Commission's recruitment activity at least for the rest of this financial year. A detailed breakdown is provided in the attached Annex which I am sharing with you on a confidential basis.

We very much appreciate that members will be concerned at potential impact on services to them for the remainder of the year. We have, throughout the process, endeavoured to minimise that direct impact. However, the level of funding required to be identified and redirected in year was substantial in order to make this payment and some impact is unavoidable.

The options and recommendations for future savings required to be found from the Commission's budgets that might have ongoing implications for services to the Senedd and Members will be considered by the Commission throughout the coming months, and will also be discussed with Group Leaders, Group Chairs, Committee Chairs, Chiefs of Staff, Trade Union representatives, senior managers and staff in advance of final decisions.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely



**Manon Antoniazzi**  
**Accounting Officer**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Annex A – Detailed Savings Schedule

[Redacted]

[Redacted Table]





