

Rt Hon John Glen MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury

27 September 2023

Dear John,

UK Government Autumn Statement

At the Finance Committee's meeting on 13 September 2023 we explored the implications of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's intention to issue his Autumn Statement on 22 November 2023, with the Minister for Finance and Local Government, Rebecca Evans MS.

You will be aware that the timing of fiscal events at Westminster has a significant impact on the publication date of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget proposals, which this year has been pushed back to 19 December. The resultant lack of time available to undertake effective budget scrutiny severely hampers the Senedd's ability to engage with its stakeholders and to effectively scrutinise the Welsh Government's spending decisions.

We are therefore disappointed that the budgetary processes of the Senedd and the devolved nations, were once again not taken into consideration when setting this date. It is also regrettable, as the Minister for Finance and Local Government indicated to us in evidence on 13 September, that engagement between the Treasury and the Welsh Government on devolved funding levels prior to a UK fiscal event is minimal.

We would be grateful if the issues above could be taken into account by the Treasury when it engages with the devolved administrations in future and would welcome continued dialogue with you on these and other matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peredur Owen Griffiths', written in a cursive style.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

