

Jayne Bryant MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee

25 January 2024

Dear Jayne

Draft Budget 2024-25

You will be aware that on 18 January 2024 we held an evidence session with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) as part of our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2024-25. The WLGA representatives were clear that at a time of intense budgetary pressures, cuts to education services are inevitable. We would like to draw your attention to several specific issues of concern which were raised during the session, as they may be relevant for your own scrutiny purposes:

- cuts to school budgets and the potential consequences, including support for those with additional learning needs;
- lack of clarity around pension arrangements for teachers, and whether the Welsh Government will be funding them;
- a complexity of needs in schools as a result of the COVID pandemic, leading to cost pressures of additional facilities and resources which can only be part-funded;
- the need to prioritise safeguarding over early intervention and prevention; and
- the number of schools predicting "irretrievable" budget deficits.

Further information on the discussions are available in the Committee's [transcript](#).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The letters are cursive and connected.

John Griffiths MS

Chair Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.