

Laura Trott MBE MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury

5 February 2024

Dear Chief Secretary

Finance Committee report: Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25

The Finance Committee has published its [report on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25](#). For the fifth consecutive year, a key concern for us has been the timing of fiscal events at Westminster, which has had a significant impact on the publication date of the Welsh Government's budget proposals. These delays reduce our time to engage with stakeholders and to undertake effective budget scrutiny.

The Committee has previously raised this issue with your predecessors, most recently on [27 September 2023](#), when I wrote to the former Chief Secretary to the Treasury to relay our concerns that there appears to be minimal engagement between the Treasury and the Welsh Government on devolved funding levels prior to UK fiscal announcements.

Whilst I appreciate that UK Ministers are not directly accountable to the Senedd, given our on-going concern in this area, we have recommended:

"... that the Treasury takes devolved budgetary processes into account when setting dates for future fiscal events at Westminster, and announces the dates of such events further in advance, to enable the Welsh Government to plan and publish its Draft Budget earlier in the year."



The Committee would be grateful for a formal response to the recommendation.



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In addition, the Finance Committee is undertaking an inquiry into Fiscal Intergovernmental Relations which is currently subject to a consultation.

This is an important inquiry for us to consider the effectiveness of the intergovernmental structures that are in place for collaborative working on fiscal matters. Given your responsibility for treasury interest in devolution to Wales, the Committee feels it is vital to hear from you. We have a number of scheduled evidence sessions in March, April, May or June which you would be welcome to attend in-person or via Zoom.

I would be grateful if you could indicate your availability, and the Committee clerk would be happy to liaise with your officials to arrange a suitable date.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peredur Owen Griffiths', with a horizontal line drawn through the bottom of the signature.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

