

## **Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee Report: Scrutiny of Accounts: The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales 2022-23**

*Recommendation 3 - We recommend the Welsh Government push the UK Government for a clearer timetable for providing information each year to inform the budget preparation process. We ask that the Welsh Government provide us with details of how it is liaising with the UK Government to get greater clarity and certainty on funding.*

**Accept.** While the timing of UK fiscal events is a matter for the UK Government, we continue to highlight to the UK Government the importance of providing the Devolved Governments with greater certainty and clarity in relation to the timing of UK fiscal events, given the impact this has for our respective budget procedures.

The Welsh Government has consistently pressed the UK Government for a clearer and more predictable timetable for its fiscal events, which affect our budget setting and scrutiny process. We have raised this issue through the appropriate channels, including the Finance: Inter-ministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) and through bilateral meetings with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Most recently the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Cabinet Office made the case during a meeting with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury [14 March] and in a letter to the Chancellor [29 February].

The Welsh Government has also raised with successive Chief Secretaries to the Treasury the need for greater clarity and more timely information on the implications of UK Government funding announcements for the Welsh Government Budget alongside additional budgetary flexibilities to assist with managing this uncertainty. Where significant UK funding announcements are being announced during the financial year, we have requested a similar arrangement to the Covid Guarantee that was provided in 2020-21, which gave us some degree of certainty about the minimum additional amount of funding we could expect to receive.

Together with the other devolved Finance Ministers, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Cabinet Office has raised this at the F:ISC and has led discussions on improving the UK Supplementary Estimates process to support effective budget planning by the Devolved Governments.

We will continue to press the UK Government for a clearer timetable for its fiscal events and for early indications of any additional in-year funding to ensure consideration is given to the impact these decisions have on the devolved budget and scrutiny process.