

Hefin David MS  
Commissioner for Budget and Governance  
By email

23 May 2024

Dear Hefin,

### **Senedd Commission: First Supplementary Budget 2024-25**

We are grateful for your appearance before the Committee on 22 May and the detailed information provided in the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) and accompanying letter, which was considered by the Committee on 16 May.

The Committee is content in principle with the overall variation requested to the budget for the Commission of £635k, subject to the Welsh Government's First Supplementary Budget motion. We are also assured that the budgeted target of £315k planned savings to be accrued by the Commission is the most that can be achieved without having an impact on services.

As you will be aware, the Committee has continually recommended that the Commission, like other Directly Funded Bodies, seeks to improve processes and accrue efficiencies in accordance with the [Statement of Principles](#), and we believe this approach has been adopted in this instance.

Although it is not appropriate for the Committee to take a view on operational matters, such as the pay levels of staff, we have a natural interest in the budgetary impact of those decisions, especially when they result in requests for additional in-year funding. We also have an interest in how savings are identified in-year and the impact of those on services and the staff supporting them.

As a result, we request that further information is provided on how the Commission plans to engage with Members regarding the future delivery of services, to ensure that they reflect their priorities and are manageable within current resources.

You will also be aware that the Committee made two recommendations in our [report](#) on the Commission's Draft Budget 2024-25 relating to the budgetary impact of a pay agreement, including any non-recurrent pay awards, which called on the Commission to provide regular updates on

decisions taken in relation to Commission staff pay for 2024-25. We are grateful to you for responding positively to those requests, and ask for you to continue to share information about this matter as soon as relevant negotiations over pay for the period from 2025-26 onwards have concluded.

The Committee will lay its report on the First Supplementary Budget 2024-25 before the Senedd ahead of the Plenary debate on 9 July. We would therefore be grateful for a response to the points above by Friday 21 June.

Yours sincerely,

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

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Chair of the Finance Committee

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