

Peredur Owen Griffiths  
Chair, Finance Committee

22 May 2024

Dear Peredur

### Scrutiny of the Draft Budget

Thank you for your letter regarding documentation produced alongside the Welsh Government's Draft Budget, which we considered at our meeting on 18 April 2024.

We note that you considered this issue last year and we would like to reiterate the main concern we raised at the time, which was the timeliness of the documents provided.

We recognise that in recent years there has been a pattern of the Draft Budget being published only very close to the end of the autumn term. As a result, it is essential that the Ministerial evidence papers be published at the same time or immediately after its publication. In the case of the Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government and Planning, this might be straight after the provisional local government settlement the day after the Draft Budget. We recognise the challenges this might pose to the Welsh Government, however as we noted last year, we feel that the tight timescales make it challenging to meaningfully assess the impact of the Draft Budget on the policy areas within our remit.

In relation to the third bullet point of your letter, I would note that while we remain mindful of the Budget and its implications for the policy areas within our remit in our inquiries throughout the course of the year, our scrutiny of the Draft Budget is clearly a key opportunity for us to influence and challenge the decisions being taken. We will of course continue to raise budgetary issues at any relevant opportunity with the Welsh Government.



I hope the above may be helpful for your important work in this area.

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.