

Pwyllgor Cyllid / Finance Committee
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**Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd,
yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith**

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**Climate Change, Environment,
and Infrastructure Committee**

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Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee

18 June 2024

Dear Peredur,

Scrutiny of the draft budget

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on behalf of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee on the scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2024-25. I have considered the matters raised in your letter and would like to make the following observations.

The quality of the documents accompanying the draft Budget this year was not satisfactory. Key information requested by the Committee was missing without acknowledgement or explanation, and several other elements were inaccurate or incomplete.

We believe evidence papers supporting the process must be made available to committees earlier and that efforts must be made to enhance their accuracy. However, we acknowledge that the Welsh Government is working under considerable constraints in this regard, given its reliance on the timing of the UK Government's budget process. Too often, the Senedd is subject to a severely curtailed timescale for scrutiny.

You may also be aware that the recent changes to cabinet responsibilities resulted in a significant redistribution of responsibilities, particularly those of the former Minister for Climate Change. The Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee's remit now covers the portfolios of four cabinet secretaries, encompassing diverse and substantial policy areas. I have written to the Business Committee to express my concern that scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget, in particular, will prove difficult for the Committee, especially considering the time constraints under which committees already operate. I hope that the Business Committee will consider this matter.

I would also like to suggest that the Senedd explore more flexible scheduling options within the window available for scrutiny. This could include all-day Plenary sessions, increasing the number of committee meeting slots or extending the time available for meetings, and increasing the overall number of days dedicated to Senedd business during the draft Budget scrutiny period.

We welcome the Finance Committee's ongoing engagement on the effectiveness of the budget scrutiny process.

Yours sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

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