

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

28 January 2025

Dear Peredur,

You will recall that the Finance Committee undertook its scrutiny of the Senedd Commission's Draft Budget for 2025–26 in October last year and made several recommendations to the Commission later that month.

Recommendation 8 asked the Commission to provide information regarding how decisions relating to the Cardiff Bay 2032 project will be taken, including when Members of the Senedd will be involved in such decisions and related timescales.

I wanted therefore to update you on a decision taken by Commissioners at their last meeting on 20 January to proceed to the procurement phase of the Bay 2032 project.

This means that a Contract Notice is being issued today setting out specifications in terms of space and requirements that will need to be met by any prospective bidders.

The Commission fully recognises the various pressures on public finances. However, due to the current lease on Tŷ Hywel expiring in 2032, doing nothing is not an option.

Our work to date has identified there are three options that meet our core requirements – staying in Tŷ Hywel (and upgrading it); a new building; a combination of new building plus an existing building. No decisions have been made on these options – they are simply what our external professional advisers have identified as being the choices.



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We have robustly assessed two business cases (the Strategic Outline Case and Outline Business Case), prepared by our external professional advisers, and have taken external legal advice as well as considering the extensive, detailed work undertaken by our officials, all of which clearly indicates that a procurement process is the only way for us to secure the best value outcome for the people of Wales.

I am copying this letter to all Senedd Commissioners.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elin Jones".

Elin Jones MS/AS

Llywydd and Chair of the Senedd Commission

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

