

# Concise Minutes – Finance Committee

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Meeting Venue: Hybrid – Committee room 5 Ty Hywel and video conference via Zoom

This meeting can be viewed on [Senedd TV](http://senedd.tv) at: <http://senedd.tv/en/15056>

Meeting date: Wednesday, 8 January 2025

Meeting time: 09.00 – 12.22

## Hybrid

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### Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Peredur Owen Griffiths MS (Chair) Mike Hedges MS Sam Rowlands MS
Witnesses:	Richard Hughes, Chair, Office for Budget Responsibility Tom Josephs, Budget Responsibility Committee member, Office for Budget Responsibility Professor David Miles, Budget Responsibility Committee member, Office for Budget Responsibility Guto Ifan, Lecturer, Wales Governance Centre (Wales Fiscal Analysis) Dr Ed Poole, Senior Lecturer, Wales Governance Centre (Wales Fiscal Analysis) David Phillips, Associate Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies Victoria Vasey, Director, Women’s Equality Network (WEN) Wales / Wales Women’s Budget Group (WWBG) Simon Hatch, Director, Citizens Advice Cymru



	Natalie Zhivkova, Policy & Insights Manager, Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)
Committee Staff:	Owain Roberts (Clerk) Sian Giddins (Second Clerk) Mike Lewis (Deputy Clerk) Rhiannon Williams (Deputy Clerk) Martin Jennings (Researcher) Peter Davies (Researcher)

## Registration

### Private pre-meeting

#### 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the Finance Committee.

1.2 Apologies were received from Rhianon Passmore MS. There was no substitute for Rhianon Passmore MS.

#### 2 Paper(s) to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

- 2.1 PTN 1 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language: The Land Transaction Tax (Tax Bands and Tax Rates) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 – 10 December 2024
- 2.2 PTN 2 – Letter from the Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee: Visitor Accommodation (Register and Levy) Etc. (Wales) Bill – Stage 1 scrutiny – 11 December 2024
- 2.3 PTN 3 – Letter to the Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee: Visitor Accommodation (Register and Levy) Etc. (Wales) Bill – Stage 1 scrutiny – 16 December 2024
- 2.4 PTN 4 – Letter from the Minister for Children and Social Care to the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee: Further information on Stage 2 non-Government amendments – 17 December 2024
- 2.5 PTN 5 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Report on Outturn 2023–24 – 20 December 2024
- 2.6 PTN 6 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language: Additional information following the Committee's Draft Budget scrutiny session on 12 December – 20 December 2024
- 2.7 PTN 7 – Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26: Written evidence from Cymdeithas yr Iaith
- 2.8 PTN 8 – Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26: Written evidence from Flintshire County Council
- 2.9 PTN 9 – Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26: Written evidence from Tenovus Cancer Care

**2.10 PTN 10 – Letter from the Public Ombudsman for Wales regarding an appeal hearing of a former councillor – 17 December 2024**

### **3 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26: Evidence session 2**

3.1 The Committee took evidence on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26 from Richard Hughes, Chair, Office for Budget Responsibility; Tom Josephs, Budget Responsibility Committee member, Office for Budget Responsibility; and Professor David Miles, Budget Responsibility Committee member, Office for Budget Responsibility.

#### **Break**

### **4 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26: Evidence session 3**

4.1 The Committee took evidence on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26 from David Phillips, Associate Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies; Dr Ed Poole, Senior Lecturer, Wales Governance Centre (Wales Fiscal Analysis); and Guto Ifan, Lecturer, Wales Governance Centre (Wales Fiscal Analysis).

#### **Break**

### **5 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26: Evidence session 4**

5.1 The Committee took evidence on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26 from Victoria Vasey, Director, Women’s Equality Network (WEN) Wales / Wales Women’s Budget Group (WWBG); Simon Hatch, Director, Citizens Advice Cymru; and Natalie Zhivkova, Policy and Insights Manager, Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).

### **6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting.**

6.1 The motion was agreed.

### **7 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26: Consideration of evidence**

7.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.