

Mark Drakeford, First Minister

Via e-mail

Dyddiad | Date:

Pwnc | Subject: Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister meeting

Dear Mark

Thank you for attending the scrutiny of the First Minister Committee on 8 December 2023, which was a useful and informative session.

As you are aware, the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 22 March 2024, which will be shortly after you step down as First Minister. The Committee had agreed to consider the theme of Care Experienced Children at this meeting, and would like to invite you to attend this meeting to reflect on the work your Government has undertaken in this area. The Committee will also set aside time in the meeting for general scrutiny of your term in office. It is the Committee's intention to also extend an invitation to the new First Minister to attend and set out his priorities when in office, given we understand they are likely to be appointed on 20 March 2024. This meeting is scheduled to take place in Cardiff.

There were some areas the Committee would welcome further information on after the 'Warm and Fed this Winter' session at the last meeting:

- The Committee noted the reasons given in relation to the slippages in this programme, and would welcome any further information on these slippages that may be available. The Committee would also welcome assurance that the programme is undertaking different work to the UK Government schemes.
- The Committee would welcome further information on any discussions the Welsh Government have had with Local Authorities in terms of the EcoFlex programme and confirmation of whether Local Authorities would be able to benefit from the programme if they adopt a regional approach as has happened in South Wales
- The committee would welcome an update on the anticipated timescales for the Ofgem review of standing charges, particularly in relation to North Wales, which has higher than average standing charges.

During the session on the co-operation agreement at the meeting on 8 December, you referred to 13 areas of the Co-operation Agreement that have funding attached to them and you clarified at the meeting that these areas are:

- free school meals;
- childcare for two-year-olds;
- Unnos, a national construction company to support councils and social landlords to improve the supply of social and affordable housing;
- building safety;
- the creation of Ynni Cymru, a publicly-owned energy company for Wales;
- flood capital investment;
- public transport feasibility studies;
- broadcasting;
- culture strategy;
- media financial support;
- the Arfor programme;
- Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh; and
- mental health.

Could you please provide details of the amounts of funding allocated to each of the 13 areas, in the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 budgets and in which Main Expenditure Groups (MEGs) and Budget Expenditure Lines (BELs) this funding is contained? You referred several times to funding being "ring-fenced" and monitored for potential underspends so presumably it can be quantified in this way.

Yours sincerely



David Rees MS

Chair, Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

