

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee

3 June 2025

Dear Peredur

Scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2025-26: Evidence provided by the Welsh Government

Thank you for your letter of 1 April inviting views on the information provided by the Welsh Government as part of its draft budget documentation. The Committee considered this matter at its meeting on 21 May and agreed that I should write to draw your attention to the following points.

In previous reports on the draft budget, the Committee has called for the Welsh Government to publish the Cabinet Secretary's Health Board Allocation letter along with the NHS Planning Framework, which guide health boards' Integrated Medium-Term Plans. It has called for this to be done either ahead of, or alongside, publication of the other Welsh Government draft budget documentation. Despite agreeing to this, these documents were not published ahead of last year's draft budget scrutiny, and instead had to be requested by the Committee. These documents are an important tool in enabling the Committee to understand and scrutinise the Welsh Government's spending priorities and decisions, and we urge the Welsh Government to make this information available as part of this draft budget round.

We have also previously called for the Welsh Government to provide an annual update about the work of the Value and Sustainability Board, the efficiencies that have been implemented, and the opportunities it has identified to support financial improvement. We believe such an update would be a valuable part of our draft budget scrutiny work.

Finally, we have previously recommended that the Welsh Government should provide a comprehensive breakdown of preventative spending across all NHS bodies in Wales, along with detailed evidence of how the budget allocated to prevention initiatives is being used. This recommendation was accepted in principle, and we understand that a project is underway to analyse preventative spend across the HSCEY Group; we expect to receive an update on the work of that project in the autumn. We do, however, wish to take this opportunity to re-iterate our recommendation in this area. We believe it is an important means by which the Committee can scrutinise the Welsh Government's commitment to shifting health spending allocations towards prevention.

I hope this response is a useful contribution to your work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Fox MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

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