



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

1 July 2025

Dear Peredur,

I am writing to you to confirm my intention to publish the 2026-27 Outline Draft Budget on 14 October 2025 and the Detailed Draft Budget on 3 November 2025. This will follow the Two Stage Budget Process set out in our Budget Protocol. Following a period of scrutiny, and time to reflect on its outcomes, I will then publish the Final Budget on 20 January 2026 and bring forward a debate in the Senedd on 27 January 2026.

It is my intention to announce these dates in an oral statement in plenary on Tuesday 1 July. I will also set out the Welsh Government's high-level strategy for the 2026-27 Budget providing members with significantly more information than I am usually able to provide at this point in the year. This reflects my commitment to sharing as much as possible, as early as possible, with the committee and with the Senedd.

Following the UK Government's Spending Review we now have certainty over a large proportion of our funding. Whilst our tax forecasts will not be updated until the UK Government's Autumn Budget, I believe it is right to publish our own budget early in the autumn term allowing us to conclude the 2026-27 Budget well in advance of next year's Senedd elections. This is important as we have a shared responsibility across the Senedd to agree a budget that provides certainty and stability to critical public services ahead of the election period.

The timetable I am announcing balances the need for the Welsh Government to have the time to effectively undertake our budget preparations with the importance of providing the members with the maximum possible time for scrutiny in the Senedd. In developing this timeline I have been mindful of both Standing Order 20.5 and the arrangements agreed between the Welsh Government and the Senedd in the Budget Protocol. The publication dates allow for almost 9 weeks of scrutiny of the outline Draft Budget, and more than 5 weeks for scrutiny of the detailed Draft Budget.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

These dates will require the Finance Committee to publish its report on the Draft Budget on or before **Monday 15 December** to enable the debate on the Draft Budget to take place on Tuesday 16 December, in the final week of the autumn term before the Christmas recess period.

As this is the first time for some years that we have been able to follow the two-stage process I am keen that we work together to fully understand what this will mean in practice. Additionally, I am grateful to you for your letter of 16 June setting out the detailed feedback you have collected from other committees on the changes and information they would like to see this year. I have asked my officials to carefully consider this as part of our budget planning, and to discuss in more detail with the committee clerk to ensure that we provide you with the appropriate information, at the right time, in our budget documentation.

Under Standing Order 20, the Trefnydd is also writing to the Business Committee today to set out the timetable for when the 2026-27 Draft Budget will be laid, and when the annual budget motion for the Final Budget will be tabled.

I am grateful to the Finance Committee for its continued support in ensuring the process for laying and scrutinising the budget runs smoothly. I look forward to meeting with the committee in due course to discuss the 2026-27 Budget and how it will deliver stability for the people of Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first name "Mark" is written in a larger, more prominent script than the surname "Drakeford".

Mark Drakeford MS
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg