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11 September 2025

Dear Committee,

**Ref: Call for information – Welsh Government Draft Budget proposals for
2026–27**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2026–27.

The Coleg Cymraeg creates and promotes training and study opportunities in Welsh by working with further education colleges, schools, universities, apprenticeship providers and employers. We inspire and encourage everyone to use their Welsh language skills. The Coleg's aim is to build a Welsh and bilingual education and training system which is open to everyone and to develop a bilingual workforce, including the education workforce.

In his statement to Plenary on 1 July, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Welsh Language stated that the draft budget would "restate[] into the next financial year the budget in place for the current financial year, with this year's spending plans taken forward and increased only in line with inflation."

The Cabinet Secretary's aim of seeking stability for 2026–27 and giving the next Welsh government room to set new priorities and policies is reasonable and logical. The Coleg has published [manifesto proposals](#) for the 2026 election, calling on the next Welsh government to set two goals:

- To boost the number of learners who follow Welsh and bilingual pathways throughout the education system, especially the tertiary sector.
- To boost the number of people who can and who choose to work bilingually, including within the education workforce.

Our wish for the period beyond 2026–27 would be to see the next government prioritise and fund the six policy proposals in our manifesto.

Meanwhile, with higher demands than ever on Welsh Government's budget, it is understandable that 2026–27 spending plans are set to increase in line with inflation only. As noted at the Committee's engagement event in Bangor, certainty and consistency are key for organisations such as the Coleg to be able to plan expenditure effectively. We therefore trust that government departments will act in accordance with the principle set out by the Cabinet Secretary regarding "stability and certainty for our public services and for our constituents".

We trust that this letter will support scrutiny of Welsh Government's draft budget for 2026–27. For further information please contact Gwenllian Griffiths, the Coleg's Director of Policy, Communications and Engagement, g.griffiths@colegcymraeg.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ioan Matthews
Chief Executive