

James Owen  
Chief Executive, Medr

22 September 2025

## **Scrutiny of Medr's principles of funding for 2026-27**

Dear James,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on behalf of the Children, Young People and Education Committee for your appointment to the position of Chief Executive. I wish you the very best of success in your new role.

As you will know, we will soon be carrying out scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2026-27. We are expecting the Welsh Government to publish its Outline Draft Budget on 14 October 2025 and its Detailed Draft Budget on 3 November 2025. We have therefore requested that the relevant Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers give oral evidence during our meetings on 19 and 27 November.

Before the establishment of Medr, we scrutinised the relevant Welsh Government Minister about how the Welsh Government's Draft Budget would support post-16 education and training. Given that a significant proportion of Welsh Government's total education and associated expenditure is now delegated to Medr (a total of £0.96 billion for 2025-26<sup>1</sup>), we are keen to scrutinise Medr's proposed principles of funding to enable us to fulfil our Draft Budget scrutiny responsibilities.

We therefore invite you to attend Committee on 19 November at 11.15am – 12.15pm to give oral evidence about your proposed 2026-27 principles of funding and high-level spending decisions.

Please note that we expect to publish the report on our inquiry 'routes into post-16 education and training' in mid-November. We have yet to finalise the report. However, many of the issues that we are considering fall within Medr's remit. While we do not expect you to have issued a formal response

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from the Welsh Government to the Chair of the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research ("Medr"), 20 March 2025

to the report before 19 November, our lines of questioning are likely to be informed by the evidence, conclusions and recommendations set out in that report.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support. If you have any concerns about the timetable proposed above, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee Clerk at any time.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.