

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair of Finance Committee  
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18 November 2025

Dear Peredur,

Thank you for your letter dated 24 October 2025 regarding changes to the Budget Process Protocol.

My predecessor and I have been pleased to engage constructively with the Committee on the Protocol. In my letter dated 22 July, I highlighted the benefits of the flexibility inherent in the existing Protocol, which has enabled the informal introduction of several procedures such as the Finance Committee's debate in the summer term on budget priorities and the pre-budget evidence session in the autumn.

It remains my view that changes to the Protocol are not required to achieve the majority of the improvements the Committee are seeking. I am pleased that we have been able to introduce new approaches already, and I see no reason not to continue with such arrangements for the remainder of the Senedd term. I also asked the Committee in my previous letter whether you consider there to be any essential changes which must be approved before the new Senedd is elected, I am not aware that the Committee has identified any such time critical items, but I am open to further discussions.

The forthcoming changes to the Senedd, in terms of its increased number of Members and potential changes to its scrutiny committees and plenary procedures are the most significant changes the Senedd will have experienced in its history and will result in it being a fundamentally different Senedd after the election in 2026. I have set out, and repeat here, it is my firm view that it is not for me to tie the hands of a future Senedd. Decisions on formal changes to the Protocol are for the future Welsh Government and future Finance Committee.

Your letter also highlighted a key element of our discussions about the Protocol, which is that many of our decisions have been in the context of the Welsh settlement only becoming known

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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.

in UK budgets published late in the autumn term. Several of the proposals we have discussed previously would only apply under such timeframes. The UK Government's decision to provide longer-term settlements as part of their Spending Review process is a matter the new Senedd will wish to consider.

I am confident that the new Senedd and Welsh Government following the Senedd election will welcome the opportunity to shape arrangements suited to the newly enlarged Senedd and to consider what changes to Standing Orders and the Budget Protocol they wish to bring forward. I believe that any changes to the Protocol would be for the new Senedd to agree as a single, consolidated, package of changes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Mark Drakeford AS/MS**

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