



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair
Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru

7 August 2025

Dear Peredur,

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Committee for your support of the recent review of the Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment (SIIA). Engagement with your Clerk and his team has been instrumental in helping us better understand how the SIIA is currently working and how it could be further strengthened.

The review examined the SIIA from inception to its current form and considered its purpose, strengths, impact and audience. My officials assessed the effectiveness, coherence and transparency of the SIIA process, with a particular focus on how the Welsh Government integrated social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts into strategic decision making around the Budget. The assessment also considered how the SIIA supports the five ways of working set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (WFG) Act.

As you are aware the SIIA was developed in 2015-16 alongside the WFG Act with the aim of taking both a strategic and integrated approach to how Welsh Government assess budget impacts in line with statutory and wider responsibilities. The review has highlighted several positive aspects of the current approach. The SIIA is widely recognised as a valuable tool that brings together multiple statutory and strategic considerations into a single process, supporting better-informed and more balanced spending decisions. It has helped raise awareness of key duties and priorities – including equality, Welsh language, children's rights and the Wellbeing of Future Generations – and encouraged a more integrated and holistic way of considering impact in cross government spending decisions.

We also found that the SIIA has created a shared framework for reflection and challenge. In many cases this has prompted meaningful conversations at early stages of budget decisions. These are strong foundations to build on.

The review was conducted through a combination of desk-based research, analysis of existing SIIA documentation, engagement with internal colleagues and conversations with a range of stakeholders and external partners. To help us learn from good practice elsewhere, my officials also engaged with representatives of other international governments. This comprehensive approach ensured a broad and balanced understanding of both the current position and opportunities ahead.

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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.

We have identified three key areas that we can evolve to improve the SIIA:

- Process – There is an opportunity to improve the way we undertake the SIIA. The review found a need for greater clarity and consistency in how the SIIA is developed across Welsh Government. We will be trialling a new workshop-based approach, bringing together colleagues from across government and putting the evidence at the centre of these discussions to support accountability. This will continue to embed the SIIA more meaningfully into budget process.
- Content – By building the SIIA through engagement workshops we will be able to draw on a wider base of colleagues, gather a deeper level of information through conversations and thereby improve the depth of the SIIA.
- Presentation – Improving how the SIIA is structured, written and shared will be key to increasing its accessibility, usefulness and overall influence.

Now that the review is concluded we will move into the next stage of this work which will include trialling the workshops mentioned above. Our intention is to run a series of interactive workshops this autumn for the 2026-27 SIIA which will accompany the next Budget. These workshops will feature contributions from our evidence and analytical units, key stakeholders as well as policy and finance colleagues to gain a truly integrated perspective. The sessions will be designed to be collaborative, creating a space where a wide range of experiences can feed into the SIIA.

I would once again like to extend my thanks to your team for their engagement with the review, their insight was particularly valuable.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Mark Drakeford', written in a cursive style.

Mark Drakeford AS/MS

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