

19 December 2025

Peredur Owen Griffiths AS
Chair of Finance Committee
Welsh Parliament
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your response to my previous correspondence regarding the rates refund received by the Commission in December.

In relation to your enquiry about the calculation of the £644,000 figure, this sum was determined following a review of the Estates' Forward Maintenance Register, to identify projects scheduled for the next two to three years pertaining solely to the Senedd building. The intention is to approve expenditure now where it may alleviate future budgetary pressures.

The projects identified for prioritisation are as follows:

Replacement of the remaining lights in Senedd with LED	£150,000*
Senedd lift upgrades (Lift 3 – Neuadd / Oriel public lift)	£164,000*
Senedd lift upgrades (Lifts 1 & 2 – external lifts)	£330,000*
Total	£644,000

*cost estimates provided by the Commission's professional estates advisers

As noted, two of the proposed projects were anticipated for the current year's programme, whilst the third was originally planned for 2026–27. Given the substantial upgrades recently undertaken in the Siambr for the new Senedd, it is considered timely to also advance these works prior to the commencement of the new term. As previously discussed with the Committee, the Commission's Project Fund is consistently over-subscribed at the start of each financial year, necessitating the prioritisation and phased delivery of projects so that the Fund can be managed responsively and effectively, maximising value and accommodating emerging priorities. For 2025–26, the total value of submitted, worked-up projects was £4.903 million, set against a Fund of £2.5 million.

This approach to managing the Project Fund has been particularly pertinent in recent weeks, following several failures in the broadcasting infrastructure which disrupted committee proceedings. Three business cases have now been presented directly as a result of these broadcast issues, amounting to £270,000, all originally scheduled for 2026–27. The 2026–27 Project Fund is also over-subscribed, with indicative project values of £4.4 million and an available fund of £2 million.

**Senedd Cymru**
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN Contact@senedd.cymru
 0300 200 6565**Welsh Parliament**
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN Contact@senedd.wales
 0300 200 6565

The Commission's intention is to return the balance of the refund to the WCF by treating the funds received as 'drawdown' and consequently reducing the amount drawn for the year. This will not affect the overall cash requirement or the total resource requirement for the year; it simply alters the method of receipt. The refund will be noted in the Supplementary Budget, with no consequential changes to the financial figures.

Once the new charge for office rates is confirmed, the 2026–27 budget will be updated through a supplementary budget.

Should you require any further detail or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Manon Antoniazzi

Prif Weithredwr a Chlerc y Senedd / Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

