

Mark Drakeford MS
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language
By email

11 July 2025

Dear Mark,

Welsh Government Draft Budget Timetable 2026-27

Thank you for your letter setting out the proposed timetable for the scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2026-27.

The Committee has long called for a two-stage budget process to be followed and we welcome that the timetable adheres to the approach provided for by Standing Orders and the Budget Process Protocol.

Not only will this afford more time for stakeholders to respond to the Draft Budget proposals but it will also provide a stronger and more immediate link between the engagement work we have conducted and the formal scrutiny of the Draft Budget in the autumn.

However, we note that your statement of 1 July 2025 states that the Draft Budget "will not be a budget that focuses on new priorities or fresh policies". Although we understand the reasons why you have chosen to take this approach in the last budget round of this Senedd, we would like assurances that the Welsh Government will reflect on and address the views and concerns raised by stakeholders,

the Welsh Youth Parliament and members of the public through our engagement focus groups, in its Draft Budget proposals.

I also welcome your recognition of the issues that Senedd Committees have raised with us following experiences of scrutinising the Draft Budget 2025-26 which we summarised in correspondence on 16 June 2025.

While the two-stage budget process will go some way to addressing the concerns around the time available to scrutinise the Draft Budget, issues remain with the quality and usefulness of the evidence provided to committees, and we hope that you will take these into account prior to the publication of the outline Draft Budget on 14 October 2025.

We are also grateful to you for providing details in separate correspondence of preparatory work that is being undertaken on developing a Bill proposing enhancements to the devolved tax system for consideration by the seventh Senedd, as well as further details about the statutory review of the Welsh Tax Acts etc. (Power to Modify) Act 2022.

We look forward to engaging with you on these issues in the remainder of the Senedd term.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.