

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio  
Minister for Housing and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our Ref: SF/CS/3372/13

Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM  
Chair – Environment and Sustainability Committee  
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5<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Dear Dafydd

Responsibility for day to day delivery of planning services resides with unitary authorities and national parks. Funding for the former is included within the Welsh Government's Block Grant to authorities, while funding for national park authorities by the Minister for Culture and Sport includes planning services. This income is supplemented by planning application fees submitted to local planning authorities.

The planning programme budget funds other key elements of the planning and building control systems, ranging from evaluation and development of policies and procedures to inform primary and secondary legislation, planning policy, technical advice notes and practice guidance, through to funding for the Planning Inspectorate and Design Commission for Wales, for example. The budget also includes some funding streams tangential to planning and building control.

While the proposed programme budget reduction of 13.5% for 2014/15 is challenging, my officials have reviewed expenditure, including demand led expenditure and delivery mechanisms. As the demand for certain funding streams has declined, such as the drop in demand for aggregates levy funding from communities affected by aggregate quarrying, this allocation will be reduced in the coming financial year. Efficiency savings will also be expected of organisations funded from planning budget.

The bulk of the work on the Planning (Wales) Bill in 2014/15 involves input by Welsh Government officials rather than necessitating substantive programme expenditure. The forthcoming consultation paper accompanying the draft bill will touch on financial considerations.

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*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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