

Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM
Chair
Environment and Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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5 February 2014

Dear Dafydd

At its meeting on 28 January, the Business Committee discussed the effective scrutiny of the budget by committees.

In particular, Business Managers considered concerns that had been raised during the most recent budget process, that the non-correlation between Ministerial and committee portfolios meant that some policy areas were not being subject to scrutiny by any committee.

A specific example concerned the Welsh language. Lead responsibility lies with the Communities, Equalities and Local Government Committee (CELG), and while the budget lies within that of the Minister for Education and Skills, the responsible Minister is the First Minister.

Another concern was that the timescales associated with the budget caused most of the letters sent by committees to the Minister for Finance or the Finance Committee to be received too late to inform the Finance Committee's scrutiny of the Finance Minister.

The Business Committee therefore decided to take the opportunity to look at the process in order to ensure the most effective scrutiny in future. I am writing to invite your views on any issues arising from this year's budget process and any thoughts your Members may have on how it could be improved in the future. I would be grateful if you could respond to me by Friday 21 February.

Rosemary

Dame Rosemary Butler AM, Presiding Officer
Chair, Business Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh