

Sir Derek Jones  
Permanent Secretary  
Welsh Government

4 November 2015

Dear Sir Derek

### **Finance Committee's legacy – Financial scrutiny of legislation**

I am writing to inform you that the Finance Committee is currently considering its legacy and as part of this would like to take a closer look at the way costs and benefits of legislation are presented within Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs).

The Committee has been keen to see an improvement in the quality of financial information accompanying bills over the course of this Assembly and you will be aware that there have been some recommendations in our reports on the potentially misleading approach of displaying monetised benefits alongside cash costs in RIAs.

The Committee would be keen to receive a paper from you regarding:

- The process followed for undertaking RIAs of Assembly Bills
- How costs and benefits are currently presented in RIAs
- The process for updating RIAs as and when subordinate legislation is drafted and costed
- What assessments have you already made regarding the accuracy of RIAs for Bills passed this Assembly



- How you plan to undertake post legislative scrutiny of the cost of legislation that was enacted in the Fourth Assembly
- How the cumulative cost of legislation in the Fourth Assembly is being measured

The Committee would be pleased if you were able to attend a meeting on 19 November at 9am. Please could you contact the Deputy Clerk to the Committee, Tanwen Summers (seneddfinance@assembly.wales) on 0300 200 6386 to make the necessary arrangements. I would be grateful if you were able to provide the paper by 11 November.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Finance and Government Business.

Yours sincerely,



**Jocelyn Davies AM**  
**Chair**

