

Ruth Coombs

Head of Wales, Equalities and Human Rights Commission

23 August 2018

Dear Ruth,

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2019-20

You will be aware that Assembly committees will be undertaking scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget 2019-20 during the autumn term. This year, three committees – the Finance, the Children, Young People and Education, and the Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committees – intend to work together as part of the scrutiny process.

As part of the Finance Committee's pre-budget stakeholder consultation, calls were made for improved input to the draft budget process from the perspective of children and young people. As a Commission you also called for further scrutiny to be conducted on the quality of impact assessments.

As these calls chimed with issues considered over recent years by the three Committees in our respective budget scrutiny, we will hold a concurrent meeting on Thursday 15 November to further explore them. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Leader of the House have agreed to give evidence on that day, from 14:15 – 15:15. Some of the themes that are likely to be covered in the session with the Welsh Ministers are listed in the annex to this letter.

To inform our work we would like to invite a representative of the EHRC to give oral evidence on the afternoon of Thursday 15 November, 13:30 – 14:15. The Children's Commissioner will also be invited to provide evidence alongside you, with a view to considering matters of a cross-cutting nature as well as matters specific to your respective areas of expertise. We recognise that matters relating to impact assessment reach beyond the remits of our three committees. However we hope that this session will inform future scrutiny of budgetary matters of a cross-cutting nature.



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We would welcome a short written paper from you, outlining your views in relation to the impact assessments that accompany Welsh Government draft budgets. We would be grateful to receive it no later than **Wednesday 31 October 2018**.

Yours sincerely,

Finance Committee

Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committee

Children Young People and Education Committee

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



ANNEX – Indicative scrutiny themes for the concurrent committee session on draft budget impact assessments with the Welsh Ministers

- The **approach taken to the strategic integrated impact assessment** (SIIA) this year;
- specific **improvements made to the SIIA** since the 2016 [review of Welsh Government impact assessments](#);
- how the **Gender Rapid Review** informed how the SIIA was conducted this year;
- how **children’s rights** have been considered and assessed for this draft budget, in line with the Welsh Government’s duty of due regard to the UNCRC (to include detail of any decisions taken in relation to providing a standalone CRIA, as recommended by the CYPE Committee, and the underlying reasoning for those decisions);
- how the impact of both Welsh Government **borrowing and new income tax** powers informed the SIIA;
- how the SIIA evidences the **financial impact** of Welsh Government decisions;
- how the **Cymraeg 2050 Strategy** along with the **Rapid Review of Welsh in Education Strategic Plans 2017-20**, which made specific recommendations around capital investment, impacted on the SIIA this year.

