

Vaughan Gething MS
Minister for Economy

Dawn Bowden MS
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport and Chief Whip

Welsh Government

25 October 2023

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25

Dear Vaughan and Dawn,

You will be aware that Senedd committees will be undertaking scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2024-25 this spring.

Written evidence

To inform the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee's scrutiny, we would welcome written information from you on the areas detailed in the Annex to this letter. We would be grateful to receive this information by 19 December 2023.

Oral evidence

Members would also be grateful if you could attend an oral evidence session on Wednesday 17 January 2024 between 09.30 – 11.00.

Approach

The Committee will seek to follow the Finance Committee's lead, basing our approach on the four principles of financial scrutiny: affordability, prioritisation, value for money and budget processes. We will also seek evidence from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language and First Minister, given the relevance of their work to our remit.

Following the session the Committee will write to you with any additional requests for information or clarification and publish a report of our findings in the Senedd.

Yours sincerely,





Delyth Jewell AS

Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu'n Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Annex 1: Request for written information in advance of draft budget scrutiny

The Committee requests the following information:

Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations

- A breakdown of the 2023-24 draft budget allocations (as relevant to Arts, Culture, Heritage, Communications, Creative Industries and Sport) by MEG, Spending Programme Area, Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL).
- Final out-turns for 2020-21 and forecast out-turns for 2022-2023.

Other information

- Information on how the delivery of the Arts, Culture, Heritage, Communications, Creative Industries and Sport portfolios and their associated outcomes are monitored and evaluated to demonstrate value for money.
- Details of specific policies or programmes within the relevant MEGs (relevant to Arts, Culture, Heritage, Communications, Creative Industries and Sport) that are intended to be preventative and how the value for money and cost benefits of such programmes are evaluated.
- Information on allocations (and their location) in your portfolio to provide for legislation which has the potential to impact in the financial year 2022-23 as relevant to Arts, Culture, Heritage, Communications, Creative Industries and Sport.
- Implications of the ongoing effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK exit from the EU and the cost of living crisis on the Arts, Culture, Heritage, Communications, Creative Industries and Sport portfolios and how the Welsh Government will manage ongoing impact.
- Information on allocations in your portfolio to deliver the Cultural Strategy for Wales.
- An update on development of a Culture Strategy, and any allocations for the coming financial year to take forward its actions.



Specific areas

Cadw

- Allocations and commentary in respect of Cadw including revenue generation targets, and recent annual income generation figures (including net profit).
- Allocations towards funding for owners of historic assets.

National Museum Wales and National Library of Wales

- Allocations and commentary in respect of the National Museum of Wales and the National Library of Wales, including any revenue generation targets.

Libraries and Museums

- Allocations and commentary in respect of the Libraries and Museums Strategies.
- Funding allocated to take forward recommendations in the Review of Local Museums.

Arts and Arts Council of Wales

- Allocations and commentary in respect of the Arts Council of Wales.
- Allocations and commentary in respect of funding to promote access to the arts.
- Allocations and commentary in respect of funding aimed at using arts and culture to tackle poverty.
- Allocations and commentary in respect of funding aimed at encouraging/enabling arts organisations to generate more of their own income.

Media and broadcasting

Creative Industries

- Allocations and commentary in respect of Creative Wales (including funding to be distributed by Creative Wales).
- An update on **plans** to provide further support to English-language journalism “similar to the Welsh language model”.
- Allocations and commentary in respect of any funding for the media and broadcasting.
- Allocations and commentary in respect of broadcasting and communications actions in the Cooperation Agreement, and what they are intended to achieve.



Support for film and television production

- The latest revenue and projected revenue figures, and occupancy rates for Pinewood Studios/Seren Studios since the commencement of the Management Services Agreement in November 2017.
- The latest figures for the Media Investment Budget, including total investment, return on investment and Welsh spend (broken down by project), and the same figures for investments in screen productions made by Creative Wales
- The latest figures for production funding provided by the Welsh Government including total investment and Welsh spend (broken down by project).
- The latest figures regarding the Welsh Government's loan to Bad Wolf Studios including total repayments and Welsh spend (benchmarked against Welsh Government targets).
- A description of the strategy and targets for investments in screen productions made by Creative Wales.
- An assessment of the impact of production funding provided via Ffilm Cymru, and allocations for the coming financial year.

Programme for Government commitments

On 23 September 2021 the Chair wrote to you asking you to set out the funding allocations for commitments outlined in the **Programme for Government** under the heading 'Push forward towards a million Welsh speakers, and enable our tourism, sports and arts industries to thrive'. That is:

- ensuring that Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic histories are properly reflected throughout our cultural and heritage sectors including in National Museums;
- creating a Creative Industry Research and Development Fund;
- establishing a National Music Service;
- investing in Theatr Clwyd;
- establishing a Football Museum;
- establishing a National Contemporary Art Gallery.

The Committee will also like to address these funding allocations during the scrutiny session.