

Jeremy Miles MS
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Welsh Government

25 October 2023

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25

Dear Jeremy,

You will be aware that Senedd committees will be undertaking scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget 2024-25 in the 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 24 January 2023 between 09.30 to 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 are also seeking evidence from the Minister for Economy, the Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport and the Chief Whip and the First Minister, given the relevance of their work to our remit.

In accordance with the new budget procedures, the Committee will consider whether to report our findings to the Senedd.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell

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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 2024-25 draft budget allocations (as relevant to the Welsh Language) by MEG, Spending Programme Area, Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL).
- Final out-turns for 2022-23 and forecast out-turns for 2023-2024.

Other information

- Information on how the delivery of the Welsh Language portfolio and associated outcomes are monitored and evaluated to demonstrate value for money.
- Information on allocations (and their location) in your portfolio to support the *Cymraeg 2050* Welsh language strategy, in particular, allocations to achieve the 'milestones' as set out in the *Work Programme 2021-2026*.

Specific areas

Updates on allocations in 2023-24 budget

- Information on the allocation of £3 million in 2023-4 and £1.5million in 2022-23 to the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and National Centre for Learning Welsh to increase the amount of Welsh-medium delivery in the apprenticeship and further education sector, and to provide free Welsh language learning for 16 to 25-year-olds and teaching staff.
- Update on the distribution of £2.2m allocated (per annum) to expand Welsh language immersion provision across Wales and how this funding has been used by local authorities across Wales.
- Details on take-up of the Iaith Athrawon Yfory incentive, and any impact evaluation information that could be shared. .
- Update on budget allocations from other parts of the Ministers portfolio, such as the Teacher Development and Support BEL in relation to how it is used to support the development of the Welsh language in the education sector.



- Allocations and commentary in respect of the budget allocation for the Welsh Language Commissioner in 2024-25.

Capital expenditure in relation to the Welsh language

- Detailed progress on expanding capacity in Welsh-medium schools, the distribution of the Welsh Medium Capital Grant and progress to date across local authorities in Wales.

