

Mark Drakeford AM/AC  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Lynne Neagle AM  
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Dear Lynne

Thank you for your letter, dated 15 May, in relation to scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget. I am replying as Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for the budget process.

### **Budget Transparency**

In line with this government's commitment to transparency and openness, we have worked with the National Assembly over a number of years to refine the presentation and quality of budget information to help support meaningful scrutiny of the government's proposals.

This work has acknowledged the complexity of the information being presented at various points in the budget cycle and the variety of purposes for which stakeholders use the information.

Last year, in recognition of the government's new fiscal responsibilities – including new tax and additional borrowing powers – a new budget process was agreed between the National Assembly and the Welsh Government. This included a budget protocol setting out a new two-stage budget process, which has led to the publication of a greater level of detail and supporting information at both stages of the budget process.

As part of the protocol, we agreed to publish budget information at a BEL level – a more detailed level than has previously been published.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We continually keep the presentation and quality of budget information under review and will reflect on the evidence and feedback from committees, including the Children, Young People and Education Committee.

### **Child Rights Impact Assessment**

As part of the continuous improvements to the budget process, we have taken an increasingly sophisticated approach to impact assessments through the publication of the Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment (SIIA) alongside the draft Budget.

In taking an integrated approach we continue to reflect the impacts on children's rights as well as socio-economic disadvantage, the Welsh language, equality and sustainable development through improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales.

Impact assessments on detailed spending plans are part of the second stage of the budget process. As the 2018-19 Budget was the first year in which we published a two-stage budget, we acknowledge there is more we can do to improve the impact assessments of policy development through to the budget process.

The Finance Committee has recommended future draft budgets provide a clear explanation about how decisions are arrived at. This recommendation is consistent with a Welsh Government project to develop a new framework for impact assessment, which will be rolled out in July.

The objectives for the framework include giving clearer and more explicit purposes for impact assessments across the range of government interventions; reducing complexity and applying impact assessments to interventions in a proportionate way. Our approach will focus on the quality of understanding, evidence and judgment and integrating the impact assessment process with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

I am copying this letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

**Mark Drakeford AM/AC**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid.  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance