



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-L-FM-0875-18

Llyr Gruffydd AM  
Chair of Finance Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

[SeneddFinance@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddFinance@assembly.wales)

20 December 2018

Dear Llyr,

I am writing in response to your letter of 7 December and the Finance Committee's recommendation about the Welsh Government's engagement with Assembly Member Bills made in the committee's report about the financial implications of the Autism (Wales) Bill.

In line with National Assembly for Wales' guidance, the responsibility for preparing supporting documentation for an Assembly Member Bill rests with the Member in Charge. This includes the development of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA).

Where a Member in Charge requests data from the Welsh Government to support the development of an RIA, the Welsh Government will provide that data provided it is centrally held, readily available and there are no barriers to sharing the data (for example data protection).

It is not the role of Welsh Government officials to undertake additional data gathering to supplement the information it holds or undertake bespoke analysis in response to the Member in Charge's request.

In relation to the specific circumstances of costs associated with the Autism (Wales) Bill, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services – now the Minister for Health and Social Services – set out in his evidence to the Finance Committee, and in a subsequent letter, that the information needed to assess the cost of the Bill was not held centrally by the Welsh Government.

Assessing the current costs associated with delivering autism spectrum disorder services and the enhanced diagnostic services proposed in the Bill would require engagement with university health boards; the gathering of detailed data from their management information

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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.

systems and further analysis of that data. It is the responsibility of the Member in Charge of the Bill to undertake or commission this work.

I am copying this letter to the Counsel General, the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Llywydd.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**MARK DRAKEFORD**