

Our ref: NB/mm

Ask for: Nick Bennett

 01656 641152

Date: 1 May 2019

 Marilyn.morgan
@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Llyr Gruffydd AM
Chair
Finance Committee
National Assembly for Wales

By Email Only:
SeneddFinance@Assembly.Wales

Dear Llyr

Directly funded bodies' annual budget proposals

Thank you for your letter of 4 April together with the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Finance Committee of the National Assembly for Wales and Directly Funded Bodies.

I am content with the proposed way forward, though I note that the only stated role of the Finance Committee in the MoU is to review the document periodically. I am not sure, therefore, that a formal MoU is required and I would be happy simply to receive and take account of the document as guidance from the Committee when it is issued and revised. Presumably, if it is confirmed that an MoU is the best approach, the signatories will be you, as Chair of the Finance Committee, the heads of the directly funded bodies referred to and the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd, all of whom have roles under the agreement?

The draft MoU is silent on timescales, and I understand that each of the directly funded bodies has a different deadline. I am conscious that I start preparing my budget submissions in May/June for the following financial year, so it would be helpful to indicate, in the MoU or guidance, the date by which the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd will provide the information offered – 30 June of each year would allow (albeit limited) time to prepare a draft submission for discussion with my Advisory Panel.

Whether this is progressed as guidance or a formal MoU, I will work to reflect the approach proposed in my budget submission for 2020/21.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Bennett', written in a cursive style.

Nick Bennett
Ombudsman