

Finance Committee
Y Pwyllgor Cyllid

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



To consultees on the attached list

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

August 2012

Dear Colleagues,

A call for information – Welsh Government draft budget proposals for 2013-14

The Committees of the National Assembly are seeking information to inform their scrutiny of the Welsh Government's 2013-14 Draft Budget Proposals. We are interested in exploring expectations of the budget allocations, particularly in light of progress against the Welsh Government's 'Programme for Government' commitments, and whether you have concerns regarding particular commitments/allocations and where you would like to see resources focused or specific areas prioritised.

We do not know as yet, what the draft budget proposals will look like, as they will not be published until October 2012. However, the Programme for Government Annual Report was published in May 2012, and shows progress against the Government's commitments. In addition to this, indicative allocations for the 2013-14 financial year were published in the Final Budget 2013-14.

In this paper we have detailed four specific questions. You can answer any/all of these, or just let us know in general terms about your concerns and expectations of the draft budget.

The Finance Committee looks at the Welsh Government's budget from a strategic, overarching perspective. We also work with the other Assembly Committees to ensure that proposals for specific Ministerial portfolios are considered in detail.

Committees will each undertake their own focussed evidence sessions with the relevant Ministers in order to examine the areas of the budget that fall within their respective remits, and then report to Finance Committee, detailing any concerns they have.

Some Committees are also making progress on more subject-specific stakeholder engagement exercises, including speed-dating sessions, stakeholder discussions, and engagement with young people.

This consultation is being undertaken to inform both the Finance Committee and the other Assembly committees. If the information you provide is specific to a particular area, we will pass that information on to the appropriate committee(s) to inform their scrutiny of individual Ministers.

You can find out more information about these committees, along with background information about the Finance Committee, what the Welsh Government draft budget is, and how you can access the Welsh Government's indicative figures for 2013-14 in annex 1.

Providing information to the Committee

Interested parties are invited to submit written evidence to the Clerk of the Finance Committee at the above address, to arrive by Friday 14 September 2012. If you wish to contribute but are concerned that you won't be able to meet this deadline, please speak with the Clerk of the Committee on 029 2089 8597.

If possible, please supply an electronic version in MS Word or Rich Text format, by e mail to finance.comm@wales.gov.uk by Friday 14 September 2012.

Please begin your submission by providing some information about yourself, or your organisation, before setting out your views and experiences in relation to some or all of the following areas.

What we'd like from you: consultation questions

1. Looking at the indicative budget allocations for 2013-14, do you have any concerns from a strategic, overarching perspective?
2. Looking at the indicative budget allocations for 2013-14, do you have any concerns about any specific areas?
3. What expectations do you have of the 2013-14 draft budget proposals? What spending commitments and priorities would you like to see reflected in the 2013-14 draft budget proposals?

4. The new Welsh Government has published its Programme for Government. We will be using this document to guide our scrutiny of the 2013-14 draft budget. What changes would you propose to ensure that the budget delivers the objectives set out in the Programme for Government?

The Committee has invited submissions from those on the attached distribution list (Annex 2). However, we would be grateful if you could forward a copy of the letter to any individuals or organisations that are not included but who you think might wish to contribute. A copy of this letter has been placed on the National Assembly's website with an open invitation to submit views.

Disclosure of Information

Witnesses should be aware that once written evidence has been submitted to the Committee it is treated as the property of the Committee. It is the Committee's intention to place written papers on its website, and may subsequently be printed with the report. The National Assembly will not publish information which it considers to be personal data.

However, in the event of a request for information submitted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, it may be necessary to disclose the information that you provide. This may include information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes.

If you are providing any information, other than personal data, which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, or if you do not wish your identity, as author of the evidence, to be disclosed, this must be clearly identified and it is up to you to stipulate which parts should not be published, and to provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing information or responding to requests for information.

Further information about the Finance Committee and its call for information can be found at: www.assemblywales.org

Yours sincerely



Jocelyn Davies
Chair, Finance Committee

Annex 1- Background information

Who are we?

The Finance Committee is a cross party committee of the National Assembly for Wales, made up of Members from all four political parties represented at the Assembly.

The Committee is not part of the Welsh Government. Rather, the Committee is responsible for reporting on proposals laid before the Assembly by Welsh Ministers relating to the use of resources.

Who are the other Committees involved in scrutinising the budget?

The other Committees involved in scrutinising the budget are:

- [Children and Young People Committee](#)
- [Communities, Equalities and Local Government Committee](#)
- [Enterprise and Business Committee](#)
- [Environment and Sustainability Committee](#)
- [Health and Social Care Committee](#)

What is the **Welsh Government's draft budget**?

The draft budget proposals must contain details of the amount of resources the Welsh Government proposes to use in the following financial year and indicative figures for the subsequent two financial years. More specifically it should set out:

- The use of resources by the Welsh Government, Assembly Commission, Auditor General and Public Services Ombudsman.
- Income to be retained by those organisations (rather than being surrendered to the Welsh Consolidated Fund).
- Cash to be withdrawn from the Welsh Consolidated Fund by those organisations.

In recent years, the Welsh Government has also provided a narrative document which further explains detailed allocations to government departments, as well as reserves and other overall allocations.

Why **aren't we doing this consultation after the Welsh Government's draft** budget proposals have been published?

Responding to this consultation will not preclude stakeholders from also providing information, evidence, concerns and suggested areas for scrutiny to National Assembly for Wales Committees after the publication of the Welsh Government's draft budget proposals (on 2 October 2012).

However, Committees will usually begin scrutinising Government Ministers on the content on the draft budget 1-2 weeks after it has been published, with a view to passing on their findings to the Finance Committee in late October. The Finance Committee is itself required to report on the draft budget by 8 November.

This means that there is usually very limited time (1-2 weeks) for stakeholders to suggest areas of concern to Committees. By doing this consultation now, we hope stakeholders will have more time to consider the potential impact of the budget.

What are the indicative allocations for 2013-14?

The Welsh Government's Final Budget 2012-13 – including indicative allocations for 2013-14 – and explanatory documents can be downloaded here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/funding/budget/finalbudget1213/;jsessionid=8JKDQQpXSf1m8TfnvZ634yBxywmnkrp5JjDQ2sGf10tZjtjv8DLn!545803488?lang=en&status=open>

The Welsh Government's most recent progress report on the Programme for Government can be seen here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/;jsessionid=8JKDQQpXSf1m8TfnvZ634yBxywmnkrp5JjDQ2sGf10tZjtjv8DLn!545803488?lang=en&status=open>

Annex 2

List of consultees

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board
Action for Children
ADEW
Age Cymru
All Wales Ethnic Minority Association
Aneurin Bevan Health Board
Anti Poverty Network Cymru
Arts Council of Wales
Asian Women's Group
Association of Directors for Social Services Cymru
ATL Cymru
Bangladeshi Welfare Association
Barnardos Cymru
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Bevan Foundation
Big Lottery Fund - Wales
Black Association of Women Stepping Out
Black Environment Network
Black Voluntary Sector Network Wales
Board of Community Health Councils in Wales
British Association of Social Workers Cymru
British Dental Association
British Medical Association
British Orthodontic Society
British Red Cross
Business in Focus
CAFCASS Cymru
Capital Region Tourism
Carbon Trust Wales
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
Care Forum Wales
Careers Wales
Carers Wales
CBI Wales
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
Chartered Society of Physiotherapists
Children in Wales
Children's Commissioner for Wales
Chwarae Teg
Citizens Advice Bureau - Cymru
Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs
College of Occupational Therapists
Community Pharmacy Wales

Confederation of Passenger Transport
Construction Skills
Consumer Focus Wales
Contact a Family Wales
Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
Crossroads Care Wales
Cskills
CSSIW
Cwm Taf Health Board
Cymorth Cymru
Cymru Yfory
Deaf Association Wales
Disability Wales
Disabled Children Matter
DTA Wales
Energy Saving Trust Wales
Environment Agency Wales
Equality & Human Rights Commission in Wales
Estyn
European Commission
Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW)
Forestry Commission Wales
Freight Transport Association
FSB Cymru
Funky Dragon
General Dental Council
General Medical Council
GMB Union
Governors Wales
Grayling
Hafal
HEFCW
Higher Education Wales
Hywel Dda Health Board
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants
MEWN Cymru
Money Advice Service
Mother's Union in Wales
NAHT
NASUWT
National Farmers' Union Cymru (NFU)
National Offender Management Service
National Parks
Neonatal Nurses Association
Network Rail
North Wales Race Equality Network

NSPCC Cymru
NUS Wales
NUT Cymru
Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Pakistan Association of Newport & Gwent Welsh Asian Council
Passenger Focus Wales
Play Wales
Powys Teaching Health Board
Public Health Wales NHS Trust
Race Equality First
Refugee Voice Wales
RICS
Royal British Legion
Royal College of General Practitioners
Royal College of Midwives
Royal College of Nursing
Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
Royal College of Physicians London
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
Royal Pharmaceutical Society
RSC
Samaritans
Save the Children Cymru
Sustrans
Talking2Minds
The National Autism Society Cymru
The Prince's Trust - Cymru
Tros Gynnal
TUC
UCAC
UCU
UNISON Wales
Unite Union
Velindre NHS Trust
Voice Cymru
Voices from Care
Wales Environment Link
WCVA
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust
The Welsh NHS Confederation
Welsh Women's Aid
WLGA