

Agenda – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Video Conference via Zoom	Owain Roberts
Meeting date: 16 December 2021	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 13.00	0300 200 6388
	SeneddFinance@senedd.wales

In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on www.senedd.tv

Private pre-meeting – Informal (12.45–13.00)

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest
(13.00)
- 2 Paper(s) to note
(13.00) (Pages 1 – 3)
Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021
 - 2.1 PTN 1 – Letter from the Llywydd to the Minister for Finance and Local Government – The Valuation for Rating (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2021 – 25 November 2021
(Pages 4 – 5)
 - 2.2 PTN 2 – Letter from the Chair of the Northern Ireland Assembly's Audit Committee: Consideration of Thresholds for In-Year Monitoring: Northern Ireland Assembly Commission – 29 November 2021
(Pages 6 – 7)



2.3 PTN 3 – Letter from the Chair of the Petitions Committee – Petition P-05-1078 Increase funding for mental health services and improve waiting times for people needing help in crisis. We need a change! – 2 December 2021
(Pages 8 – 9)

3 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Pre-nomination hearing
(13.00–13.40) (Pages 10 – 28)

Michelle Morris, preferred candidate for Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

Supporting papers:

FIN(6)–12–21 P1 – Curriculum Vitae for Michelle Morris
Research Service brief

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting.
(13.40)

5 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Consideration of pre-nomination hearing
(13.40–13.55)

6 Welsh Tax Acts etc. (Power to Modify) Bill – Approach to scrutiny
(13.55–14.15) (Pages 29 – 44)

Supporting documents:

FIN(6)–12–21 P2 – Approach to scrutiny
FIN(6)–12–21 P3 – Procedures to Modify Primary Tax Legislation in the UK

7 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022–23 – Citizens Engagement
(14.15–14.30) (Pages 45 – 115)

Supporting documents:

[Consultation responses](#)

FIN(6)–12–21 P4 – Summary of consultation responses
FIN(6)–12–21 P5 – Citizens Engagement Summary Report

Concise Minutes – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

This meeting can be viewed

Video Conference via Zoom

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

Meeting date: Wednesday, 24 November
2021

<http://senedd.tv/en/12478>

Meeting time: 10.30 – 12.35

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Peredur Owen Griffiths MS (Chair) Peter Fox MS Mike Hedges MS Rhianon Passmore MS
Witnesses:	Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and the Welsh Language Huw Morris, Welsh Government Zenny Saunders, Welsh Government Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales, Audit Wales, Lindsay Foyster, Audit Wales Nicola Evans, Wales Audit Office
Committee Staff:	Owain Roberts (Clerk) Leanne Hatcher (Second Clerk) Georgina Owen (Second Clerk) Mike Lewis (Deputy Clerk) Joanne McCarthy (Researcher)



In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on www.senedd.tv

Private pre-meeting – Informal (10.15–10.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the hybrid meeting of the Finance Committee.

2 Paper(s) to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

2.1 PTN 1 – Information from the Minister for Finance and Local Government regarding the Committee's inquiry into a legislative budget process – November 2021

2.2 PTN 2 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Finance Ministers' Quadrilateral Meeting – 9 November 2021

2.3 PTN 3 – Senedd Commission response to the Committee's report on Scrutiny of the Senedd Commission Draft Budget 2022–23 – 10 November 2021

3 Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill – Evidence session

3.1 The Committee took evidence from Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and the Welsh Language; Huw Morris, Director of Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning; and Zenny Saunders, Deputy Director PCET Reform, on the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill.

3.2 The Minister for Education and the Welsh Language agreed to provide further financial information on the Bill.

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting.

4.1 The motion was agreed.

5 Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill: Consideration of evidence

5.1 The Committee considered the evidence and agreed to write to the Minister for Education and the Welsh Language requesting further information.

Technical break (11.40–11.45)

6 Audit Wales – Travel and Subsistence review

6.1 The Committee took evidence from Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales; Lindsay Foyster, Chair of the Wales Audit Office; and Nicola Evans, Head of Finance, Audit Wales on the Travel and Subsistence review.

7 Audit Wales – Travel and Subsistence review: Consideration of the session

7.1 The Committee considered the evidence.

8 Consideration of Forward Work Programme

8.1 The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-RE-3755-21

Elin Jones, MS
Llywydd
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

25 November 2021

Dear Elin

THE VALUATION FOR RATING (WALES) (CORONAVIRUS) (REVOCAATION) REGULATIONS 2021

In accordance with section 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, I am notifying you that there is a possibility this statutory instrument will come into force less than 21 days after it has been laid. This statutory instrument is made under paragraph 2(8) of Schedule 6 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988. It will come into force once the Rating (Coronavirus) and Directors Disqualification (Dissolved Companies) Bill (the Bill) receives Royal Assent and there is a risk this may occur within 21 days of this statutory instrument being laid. The rationale is to provide clarity of law as provisions within the Bill would supersede the *Valuation for Rating (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2021* (the existing Regulations) which came into force on 1 November. A copy of the instrument and the Explanatory Memorandum are attached for your information.

If it comes into force, this statutory instrument will revoke the existing Regulations which were put in place to protect public finances whilst the Bill progresses through Parliament. If the Bill passes, provisions within the Bill will supersede the existing Regulations and, for the sake of clarity, the existing Regulations need to be revoked. The existing Regulations will remain in place whilst the Bill progresses and in the event that the Bill does not receive Royal Assent.

Amendments in the Bill relating to Wales were laid on 9 September and I laid a Legislative Consent Memorandum on 21 September, considered by the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee who reported on 17 November and 18 November respectively. I held a Plenary debate on the Legislative Consent Motion for the Bill on 23 November, within which the Senedd granted agreement for provisions applicable to Wales to be included in the Bill.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

Pack Page 4

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.

I am copying this letter to Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Chair of the Finance Committee, Siwan Davies, Director of Senedd Business, Sian Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Services and Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government



Northern Ireland
Assembly

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Room 254
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Email: committee.audit@niassembly.gov.uk

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chairperson of the Finance Committee

Issued via email to: SeneddFinance@senedd.wales

29 November 2021

Dear Peredur,

Consideration of Thresholds for In-Year Monitoring: Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

In 2016, the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission (the Assembly's Corporate Body) and the Department of Finance sought to reflect the constitutional independence of the Assembly from the Executive. This led to the development of a methodology for setting the Commission's budget, whereby the Northern Ireland Assembly Audit Committee provides scrutiny and challenge to the Commission's expenditure plans and reports accordingly.

The methodology specifically refers to the Audit Committee's input to in-year adjustments to the Commission's budget:

'The submission of the Commission's contribution to Monitoring Rounds and the Spring Supplementary Estimate will be subject to agreed thresholds between the Commission and the Committee. If these thresholds are not exceeded, the Commission will not seek the Audit Committee's view on its in-year position.'

These thresholds have not yet been agreed.

**Audit Committee
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 276, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.
Email: Committee.Audit@niassembly.gov.uk**

A [research paper](#) was commissioned by the Audit Committee to help inform its consideration of the thresholds issue. It offered a comparison of practices concerning committee scrutiny of underspend and overspend in legislatures with operational similarities to the Assembly.

In considering the research paper, the Audit Committee noted the position in Wales: *'if a supplementary budget is required then the supplementary budget will be considered by the Finance Committee, if no supplementary budget is required then a written report providing an explanation of any significant budget transfers is required.'*

To help inform its consideration of the thresholds that should apply to its input to in-year adjustments, the Audit Committee agreed that I write to you to ask whether, in practice, there is an amount attached to 'significant budget transfers' and whether the Finance Committee is informed on every occasion a supplementary budget is required.

I would appreciate a response at your earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PP LM' followed by a stylized surname.

Daniel McCrossan
Chairperson of the Audit Committee

Audit Committee
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 276, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.
Email: Committee.Audit@niassembly.gov.uk

Agenda Item 2.3

Petitions Committee

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS

Chair

Finance Committee

Tŷ Hywel

Cardiff Bay

CF99 1SN

2 December 2021

Dear Peredur

Petition P-05-1078 Increase funding for mental health services and improve waiting times for people needing help in crisis. We need a change!

The Petitions Committee considered the above petition at our meeting on 15 November, alongside correspondence from the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing and the Petitioner.

At the meeting members noted that it will take time to establish and to embed the Welsh Government's approach to provide 24 hour appropriate response and pathway to support, members therefore agreed to write to you in order to request that the petition and correspondence is included in any future scrutiny work regarding mental health services.

Further information about the petition, including related correspondence, is available on our website at: <https://business.senedd.wales/ielssueDetails.aspx?Ild=35006&Opt=3>.

If you have any queries, please contact the Committee clerking team at the e-mail address below, or on 0300 200 6454.

Yours sincerely



Jack Sargeant MS

Chair

Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

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senedd.cymru/SeneddDeisebau

0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

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senedd.wales/SeneddPetitions

0300 200 6565

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 3

Curriculum Vitae – Michelle Morris

Career History

October 2017 to date

Chief Executive (Managing Director), Blaenau Gwent CBC

- Responsible for the overall leadership of the organisation, as Head of Paid Service, and principle policy adviser to Elected Members accountable for delivery of services in line with council priorities.
- Responsible for the strategic management of the Council, its workforce of 3,500 and an annual budget of £180M, and for policy development and service delivery, using innovative approaches to deliver change and improved outcomes.
- Managing complexity, working with multiple stakeholders, Elected Representatives, communities and service users.
- Working across the public sector, through partnerships and collaboration, including the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and Public Service Boards.
- Responsible for the leadership of the Council's emergency response, and recovery, to the Pandemic including partnership working across the public sector through the Regional Strategic Co-ordination Group.
- Responsible for ensuring strong governance and high standards of conduct, within the Council, and used to being held to account in public office.
- High level of personal resilience and upholding the ethical standards required within the public sector.

February 2008 to October 2017

Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer (previously Assistant CEX), Highland Council, Scotland

- Responsible for the leadership of Corporate Services and Change across the organisation.
- Deputising for the Chief Executive in the leadership and development of the organisation.
- Monitoring Officer (statutory role) responsible for corporate governance and conduct, ensuring the Council maintained the highest standards and that issues were dealt with promptly and appropriately.

2004 to 2008

Assistant Chief Executive, City & County of Swansea

2000 to 2004

Head of Communications & Customer Relations, Carmarthenshire County Council

1997 to 2000

Corporate Marketing Co-ordinator, Pembrokeshire County Council

1995 to 1997

Community & Tourism Development Officer, Menter Preseli (EU LEADER Programme)

1990 to 1995

Community & Tourism Development Officer, SPARC (EU LEADER Programme)

1987 to 1990

Marketing Manager, Mendip Foods (Somerset)

Other Relevant Information

Qualifications

- Masters Business Administration - University of Glamorgan 1996-1999
- MSc Marketing – Cranfield Institute 1986-87

Non-Executive & Professional Roles

- Pembrokeshire MENCAP Ltd – Director and Trustee (appointed in 2019)
- Dyfed Powys Police/Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner Joint Audit Committee (appointed October 2021)
- Member SOLACE (Wales)

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