

Agenda – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue: Hybrid – Committee room 3, Senedd and video conference via Zoom	For further information contact: Owain Roberts Committee Clerk 0300 200 6388 SeneddFinance@senedd.wales
Meeting date: 5 October 2022	
Meeting time: 09.30	

Private pre-meeting – Informal (09.15–09.30)

- 1 **Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**
(09.30)
- 2 **Paper(s) to note**
(09.30)
 - 2.1 **PTN 1 – Letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Pre-budget scrutiny – 28 September 2022**

(Pages 1 – 3)
 - 2.2 **PTN 2 – Letter from the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee: The Historic Environment (Wales) Bill – 30 September 2022**

(Pages 4 – 18)
- 3 **Scrutiny of the Senedd Commission Draft Budget 2023–24: Evidence session**
(09.30–10.30)

(Pages 19 – 64)

Ken Skates MS, Commissioner for Budget and Governance
Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd
Nia Morgan, Director of Finance

Supporting papers:
FIN(6)–19–22 P1 – Senedd Commission Draft Budget 2023–24
Research Service brief

- 4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting.**
(10.30)
- 5 Scrutiny of the Senedd Commission Draft Budget 2023–24:
Consideration of evidence**
(10.30–10.45)
- 6 Financial implications of the Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill: Draft report**
(10.45–11.00)
Supporting documents:
FIN(6)–19–22 P2 – Draft report (To be included in a supplementary pack)
- 7 Financial implications of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill**
(11.00–11.15) (Pages 65 – 70)
Supporting documents:
[Agriculture \(Wales\) Bill](#) (PDF, 345KB)
[Explanatory Memorandum](#) (PDF, 3.4MB)
Research Service Brief
- 8 Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) on the UK Infrastructure Bank Bill: Draft report**
(11.15–11.30) (Pages 71 – 77)
Supporting documents:
FIN(6)–19–22 P3 – Draft report
- 9 Review of the Budget Protocol**
(11.30–12.00) (Pages 78 – 83)
Supporting documents:
FIN(6)–19–22 P4 – Paper on the Budget Protocol



Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru/ Welsh Parliament
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28 September 2022

Dear Peredur,

In preparation for our session on the Draft Budget 2023-24 later this week, I thought it might be helpful to set out the current position and highlight the significant challenges we face in undertaking our Budget preparations.

As you are aware, in setting a multi-year Budget last year, the Welsh Government wanted to offer certainty for our stakeholders and partners, delivering a Budget for a fairer, greener Wales. I outlined at the start of the summer that our Budget was already worth at least £600m less in real terms than originally expected. This situation has now worsened further.

The Chancellor's refusal to let the Office for Budget Responsibility provide an economic forecast ahead of last week's fiscal statement is completely irresponsible. In the absence of OBR forecasts, based on work by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and new independent forecasts published by HM Treasury, the value of the Welsh Government's budget over the current 3-year settlement is up to £4bn less in real terms than was expected when that settlement was reached. The Chancellor's statement failed entirely to acknowledge these pressures.

Alongside the long legacy of austerity, the UK leaving the EU, the pandemic and our ongoing efforts to tackle the climate and nature emergency, we have seen the impacts of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the associated impacts on inflation. The fiscal measures the Chancellor introduced as part of his statement last week comprised tax cuts that disproportionately benefitted the rich; they fail to address inflationary and other pressures on public sector budgets and do not provide the capital stimulus needed to boost economic growth. We believe this is the most challenging fiscal context we have faced since devolution.

The Welsh Government's Chief Economist will join the Committee prior to our session on Thursday 29th September to provide an overview of how the economic and fiscal conditions

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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.

are impacting on the Welsh Government, and our partners, in the public and third sectors. He will also reflect on the outlook for the forthcoming period considering the UK Government's most recent announcements.

The UK Government's announcement of an Energy Price Guarantee suggests inflation may stay close to the current rate of 9.9% in the months ahead rather than increasing to 15% - 20% as had been expected absent the guarantee. However, even at around 10%, inflation will likely remain much higher than the growth in earnings. Households are already cutting back on spending substantially and you will be aware that the Bank of England has recently assessed that the UK may already be in a recession.

Whilst the Prime Minister's energy announcement will alleviate some of the anticipated additional pressures on households, this initiative fails to target support at those that need it most. Furthermore, the tax changes set out in the Chancellor's fiscal statement are highly regressive, with the benefits concentrated on the most affluent people.

The sterling exchange rate, already substantially depreciated this year, has weakened further since the new UK Government took office and has been under particular pressure since the Chancellor's fiscal statement. In addition, market interest rates have been rising, partly in anticipation of further moves by the Bank of England to increase the base rate.

The weaker exchange rate, coupled with higher interest rates on UK Government debt, indicates that international investors are increasingly nervous about UK economic prospects and sceptical about the UK Government's economic strategy.

The outlook is clouded in uncertainty and while the economic slowdown may prove to be not as deep or lengthy as would have been the case had the energy price guarantee not been put in place, it is still expected to be highly damaging to incomes and employment. Increases in interest rates now appear likely to add to challenges faced by households and businesses.

On the timing of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget, the UK Government has confirmed it will publish a Medium Term Fiscal Plan on 23rd November alongside an updated OBR forecast. There will be a UK Budget in the Spring with a further OBR forecast. The UK Government also confirmed it is not intending to make changes to the settlements confirmed at Spending Review 2021. Given this context, I am continuing to undertake preparations for our Draft Budget 2023-24 based on the spending review funding from the UK Government. We should recognise, however, a future UK Budget in the spring impacts our Final Budget should the UK Government choose to make further changes between our draft and final Budget.

There are risks linked to changes in the National Insurance levy which could result in reductions to our settlement. We have also seen the UK Government change its stated intentions and while there is a commitment not to reopen the Spending Review, we cannot preclude substantive changes to our settlement.

I have raised these concerns with the HMT and will continue to do so. On these grounds, I am not suggesting a change to the publication date of our Draft Budget with publication set for 13th December 2022. As ever, it is important there is a balance between us having sufficient time to undertake our preparations against providing stability for our partners and sufficient time for scrutiny. Given the significant challenge ahead of us, I would welcome further discussion on this during our session.

Ahead of the UK fiscal statement, I wrote to the new Chancellor and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, alongside the other Devolved Government Finance Ministers, to urgently press the UK Government to make available the additional funding necessary to respond to the circumstances we face, and to provide early information and clarity regarding UK Government fiscal decisions, which will have implications for our Budget. Sadly, these calls have not yet been answered.

By setting out this context, I hope to aid constructive and open dialogue towards building a shared understanding of the challenges facing Wales as we prepare for the next Budget round when we meet later this week. I would welcome the Committee's reflections and insights on how collectively we can better prepare for the Draft Budget 2023-24 against such a challenging backdrop.

I would welcome the Committee's support in working together to call for the UK Government to both provide the necessary funding and to respect the role of devolved Parliaments in being able to effectively undertake their own budgetary processes. I look forward to discussing this with you further when we meet on the 29th.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
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Peredur Owen Griffiths MS

Chair, Finance Committee

30 September 2022

Dear Peredur

The Historic Environment (Wales) Bill

Thank you for your letter dated 18 July 2022 regarding the financial implications of the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill. We considered your letter this week and are grateful to you for helpfully outlining your position as regards consideration of this consolidation Bill.

While a consolidation bill cannot give rise to additional significant expenditure and there is no formal requirement for the Senedd to be invited to consider a financial resolution for such Bills, at the outset of our consideration of the Bill we were mindful that there can be some costs associated with consolidation Bills and, for that reason, we agreed to look into these relevant matters in accordance with Standing Order 26C.17(v).

As such following our first evidence session on 11 July with Mick Antoniw MS, the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution, we wrote to him with further questions and six specifically related to the transitional costs outlined in the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Bill. For your information, I draw to your attention questions 13 to 18 in my letter to the Counsel General dated 19 July, and paragraphs 45 to 48 in the Counsel General's response of 17 August 2022. (See enclosed.)

Yours sincerely,



Huw Irranca-Davies

Chair



Mick Antoniw MS
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

19 July 2022

Dear Mick

Follow-up to evidence session on the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill, 11 July 2022

Thank you for appearing before the Committee on 11 July and giving evidence on the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill (the Bill). We found our discussions on this first consolidation Bill to be productive and it will help our subsequent consideration of the Bill.

There are a number of issues we would like to pursue further. There are also some matters which we did not have the opportunity to raise during the meeting.

I would be grateful to receive your responses to the questions in the Annex by 17 August 2022 (references to the Record of Proceedings (RoP) for the evidence session are provided where necessary).

We have also been giving consideration as to how we may, during the course of our consideration of the Bill, best raise any questions which specifically relate to drafting style and the Drafters' notes which accompany the Bill. I asked you during our meeting whether you and the drafters in the Office of the Legislative Counsel would be content with the drafters themselves speaking with us should the need arise. As I said during the meeting, we would, of course, respect the boundaries of what is appropriate to ask of government officials. I take the opportunity to thank you again for your positive response. The Clerks will liaise with the drafters to identify a suitable date and time, should the need arise.

May I also take the opportunity to formally invite you to our meeting on Monday 14 November (p.m.).

This will be an opportunity for us to discuss with you the matters which have arisen during our full consideration of the Bill, including any matter which is raised with us by stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies

Huw Irranca-Davies

Chair



Annex

1. During the evidence session we asked you whether decisions had been made to exclude relevant legislation from the consolidation exercise and whether any such exclusions were because of concerns regarding legislative competence (RoP paragraphs 14-22). You and your officials provided some examples – namely the *Protection of Wrecks Act 1973*, the *Redundant Churches and Other Religious Buildings Act 1969*, the *Protection of Military Remains Act 1986*, and the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. As discussed during the evidence session, we would be grateful if you would provide details as regards the full reasons why provisions in these Acts have been excluded from the consolidation exercise, along with details of any other relevant legislation which has been deliberately excluded from the version of the Bill introduced to the Senedd.
2. During the session, we also asked you what would happen if the UK Government legislates in a devolved area of law that has been consolidated. It was suggested to us that the Welsh Government would expect the UK Government to reform the law and to do it bilingually (RoP paragraphs 73-81). It was also suggested that this situation could be difficult where the UK Government is preparing a law that applies to the whole of the UK, for example, on a specific matter but the Welsh Government does not “see that that is likely to happen” (RoP paragraph 81). You will know that there have been several examples in recent years where the UK Government has sought to legislate on a UK-wide basis, with or without the input of the Welsh Government or the consent of the Senedd. As such, we would be grateful if you would give further consideration to this matter and confirm:
 - whether discussions have already begun with relevant UK Government counterparts regarding the Welsh Government’s consolidation of law programme – and this Bill in particular – and the Welsh Government’s expectation that any law to be proposed by the UK Government in an area that has been (or is being consolidated) will be done bilingually and any required amendments will be made to the Welsh law as consolidated;
 - how the Welsh Government considers that it could ensure that any amendments proposed by the UK Government to Welsh law which has been consolidated will be done in a way that will preserve the consolidation;
 - whether the Welsh Government will consider any impacts on the consolidation of Welsh law in any discussion it has with the UK Government on a relevant piece of legislation and how it would draw any such potential impacts to attention of the Senedd?
3. We also asked if you would provide more details on your plans for a code of Welsh law on the historic environment and you told us that the code will consist of the Act (if and when the Bill is

passed and then implemented) and any secondary or tertiary legislation under it (RoP paragraphs 92-95). Can you confirm our understanding that:

- 'codes of Welsh law' will each be, in effect, repositories of law which begin with the single piece of consolidated primary legislation, and sitting within the repository will be any delegated legislation made in consequence of the headline primary legislation, along with all relevant guidance;
 - in practice, future amendments will, in effect, be made to specific law within a code;
4. What discussions have you had with The National Archives about the styling of legislation as codes on legislation.gov.uk and the need to update them quickly?
 5. We asked you to provide more detail on your thinking as regards changes to the Senedd's Standing Orders to ensure future Bills and amendments are made within a code of Welsh law . You confirmed that such changes would have an impact on private Member proposals for Bills to be introduced to the Senedd (RoP paragraphs 96-98). As such we asked if you had given consideration to consulting backbench Senedd Members and Party Groups directly on your proposals, in addition to any evidence gathering the Business Committee may undertake itself. We would be grateful if you would provide clarification and confirmation of your intentions as regards this matter.
 6. Are there any new powers included in the Bill that give the Welsh Ministers powers to make policy changes?
 7. Section 209 of the Bill relates to regulations that may be made under the Bill, once enacted. Section 209(6) provides for the downgrading of scrutiny procedures – from affirmative to negative - for certain regulations relating to partnership agreements. Can you clarify how, in your view, this is line with SO26C.2(iv)?
 8. Can you explain what has been the effect of the **Interpretation Act 1978** and the **Legislation (Wales) Act 2019** - both of which apply to Welsh law - on the Bill?
 9. Changes have been made throughout the Bill as regards where existing Acts used the wording "expedient" and "appropriate", and most references to what is "expedient" or "appropriate" have been omitted from the Bill. In the Drafters' Notes we are told that "the two words have the same effect, and in most cases they do not add anything to the general requirements of administrative law for public authorities to act reasonably". We are aware that recent law reform Bills introduced to the Senedd include these words. Can you therefore offer some further clarity and explanation on this matter.
 10. You have acknowledged that work will be needed by HM Courts and Tribunals Services to update their systems to reflect the new legislation. What discussions have you had with HMCTS and are they in agreement that such changes will be undertaken as part of their normal course of business?

11. The Bill makes changes to sentencing powers of Magistrates' Courts. In the Drafters' Notes which accompany the Bill you highlight that section 13 of the *Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022* further amends the *Sentencing Act 2022* so that the Lord Chancellor may change the "applicable limit" from 12 months to 6 months and back again. You note that the penalties for either-way offences have been restated to reflect these changes on the understanding that section 13 will come into force before this Bill. What is your understanding as regards when section 13 of that Act will come into force? What impact will there be on Bill if section 13 isn't in force before this Bill, and what action will you be required to take?
12. In the Explanatory Memorandum you note that the existing legislation is accompanied by a range of advice and guidance, include **Technical Advice Note 24**.
 - Are there plans to update this guidance as a result of this Bill ?
 - What progress has been made with the Cyfraith Cymru website?
13. The Standing Orders do not require a financial resolution to be considered or agreed by the Senedd for consolidation Bills. The total transitional costs for the Bill are estimated to be around £50,000, to be spread across a three year implementation period. That figure is higher than the cost estimates for other law reform Bills introduced to the Senedd where a financial resolution was required, for example the **NHS Indemnities (Wales) Bill**, where the estimated costs were £30,000. It is important that the cost estimates are accurate, robust and justifiable. Please can you explain how you arrived at the costs for the Bill, and provide details of the specific transitional costs involved?
14. Paragraph 43 of the Explanatory Memorandum notes the estimated costs per local authority or National Park authority will be approximately £17,500, approximately four days' work per authority. On what basis have you estimated that it will be four days of work for local and national park authorities to implement the legislation and were the authorities consulted on the estimates of potential costs?
15. Can you clarify that there will be no costs to land owners or private individuals?
16. Paragraph 44 of the Explanatory Memorandum states that costs for third sector bodies and amenity societies will be "minimal and probably in the region of one person for one day" but no actual costs are provided. Can you clarify why this is the case?
17. Can you clarify if the £1,400 cost estimated for holding familiarisation workshops for heritage crime officers includes both the costs to Cadw and the costs to police forces?
18. Paragraphs 50 and 52 of the Explanatory Memorandum set out the costs for Welsh Archaeological Trusts and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. On what basis were these costs calculated and were the Trusts and Royal Commission consulted on these costs?



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Huw Irranca-Davies, Chair
Legislation, Justice & Constitution Committee
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17th August 2022

Dear Huw

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT (WALES) BILL

Thank you for your letter of 19 July 2022 following my evidence to the Committee on 11 July. I found the Committee's approach to that first evidence session extremely helpful and I appreciate the opportunity to provide further information and detail through our correspondence.

Legislation excluded from the Bill

1. We omitted provision from section 53 of Part 3 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 for legislative competence reasons. This is the provision in section 53(4) about bringing proceedings elsewhere in Great Britain for offences committed in the territorial sea adjacent to Wales. Because of the limitations of the Senedd's competence in terms of the extent of any changes to the law, we would have been unable to restate the effect of section 53(4) in the Bill.
2. Part 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 is not being restated in the Bill. The decision not to restate this provision has been made for different reasons to the other examples of legislation mentioned in your question. Part 2 of the 1979 Act makes provision about archaeological areas, but Part 2 has never been used to designate areas in Wales. The Part is of no practical utility or effect, so the Bill makes amendments to Part 2 so that it will no longer apply in relation to Wales.

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3. In the other Acts that are wholly or partly restated in the Bill, various provisions have been omitted from the consolidation under Standing Order 26C.2(iii) because they are no longer considered necessary. Those provisions are identified in the Drafters' Notes.
4. However, one provision of this kind was inadvertently omitted from the Drafters' Notes, and I would like to take this opportunity to correct that oversight. Section 54 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 enables a development order under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to specify cases in which a person consulted about an application under the planning Acts is required to provide a response. This would include applications for listed building consent and conservation area consent, but the power has never been used in relation to those applications and Cadw considers that there is no prospect of it being used. Accordingly, in reliance on SO 26C.2(iii) the Bill does not amend section 54 to cover applications under the Bill, meaning that it will cease to apply to listed building and conservation area consent applications in Wales.
5. At a suitable opportunity the Drafters' Notes will be updated to include this reference.
6. The Drafters' Notes also include no reference to section 49 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, because that section will continue to apply to Wales after the consolidation. In our view, it would be more appropriate for section 49 to sit with the general law about compensation for the compulsory purchase of land, rather than with the law on the protection of the historic environment, and for that reason we do not think it belongs in this Bill.
7. Of the other examples of legislation mentioned in your Annex, the only realistic candidate for inclusion in the Bill was the provision about wrecks in the 1973 Act.
8. We took the view in relation to the 1969 and 1986 Acts that both Acts were peripheral to the subject-matter of the consolidation and should not be included in the Bill for that reason. In the case of the 1969 Act, the main provisions that are still in force are really about the powers of charities and the Charity Commission in connection with the disposal of land, rather than about the protection of the historic environment as such. Similarly, the 1986 Act is about preventing interferences with military aircraft that have crashed and vessels that have sunk. Had we included this provision in the Bill, we think this would have had a negative effect on the accessibility of the restated legislation.
9. As suggested above, the position in respect of the 1973 Act was different, and the legislation does protect certain wrecks thought to be historically, archaeologically or artistically important. The difficulty with the 1973 Act is that it was passed as "stop-gap" legislation at the time, creating what was meant to be a temporary mechanism for the designation and management of the sites of wrecks.
10. Incorporating the Act in the Bill would have required a number of new provisions to make it consistent with modern practices (the current provision is very light on detail about how the system established by the Act operates), and the legislation has not been used for 20 years (only six sites have ever been designated in relation to Wales). It also applies, of course, off-shore rather than on land. As a result the 1973 Act wasn't considered a priority partly because its omission could be justified and partly because it is not a significant part of the system for the protection of the historic environment.

UK Government proposed legislation

11. I understand, and to an extent share, the concerns of the Committee – the aim of all of the consolidation projects is to improve the accessibility of Welsh law, and we want to ensure that everything is done to maintain that improvement. That is not to say that

subsequent legislative changes cannot be made to legislation that has been consolidated. Clearly it can. What we want to ensure is that those changes are made as amendments to the consolidation, not as separate stand-alone legislative proposals.

12. Officials in the Office of the Legislative Counsel have discussed the Government's programme to improve the accessibility of Welsh law with their counterparts in the other UK drafting offices. This includes explaining our ambitions for maintaining the law once consolidated and codified. Those drafting offices are already aware of our existing policy that amendments to existing Welsh law by other legislatures must make changes to both language texts. There are plenty of examples of that happening already.
13. As explained in the evidence to the Committee, if the UK Government were to legislate for Wales on a matter for which the law had already been consolidated then the expectation would be that the consolidated law would be amended by that UK Bill. That is the approach, should this situation ever arise, that our officials would explain and discuss with the relevant policy, legal and drafting officials at the time.
14. I believe that, should this ever come to pass, then it would be appropriate to draw the Senedd's attention to the drafting approach being taken by the UK Government in their legislative proposals as part of the LCM process.

Codes of Welsh law

15. The Committee has understood the intentions for Codes of Welsh law correctly. They are, to adopt your wording, repositories of the law. They will most likely begin with a single piece of consolidated primary legislation. But they could also begin with the substantive statement of the law set out through an Act which reformed and restated the law on a subject (so through a Senedd Bill taken through Standing Order 26). Subsequent substantive primary legislation may also be part of a Code. For example, due to the amount of legislation involved, a Code of Welsh law on education may – as has been said in evidence previously – contain a number of Acts relating to different aspects of education law (e.g. schools, further education, higher education). If an Act is intended to form part of a Code, then a statement to that effect will be included within it – most usually in the way set out in section 1(1) of the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill.
16. Legislation which amends those substantive Acts will not form part of the Code and will not include the statement. They are simply the vehicle by which amendments to the, in this case, consolidated legislation is achieved.
17. The Committee is also correct to say that sitting within that Code (or 'repository') will be delegated legislation and guidance. The substantive regulations will include a statement that they form part of the Code. And again subsequent amending regulations will not be part of the Code but the effects they create will take place within the Code.

Legislation.gov.uk

18. Although The National Archives are aware of the Government's programme to improve the accessibility of Welsh law, we do not see that it is necessary to seek additional or different styling on legislation.gov.uk for legislation forming part of a Code. This is because it is not a new type or form of legislation (the Acts will continue to be Acts of Senedd Cymru for example).
19. We intend to use the Cyfraith Cymru/Law Wales website to set out the content of Codes of Welsh law. We will create a bespoke page for each Code, and users will be able to access the primary and subordinate legislation from this page, as well as links to

guidance. The Queen's Printer will remain responsible for the publication of the legislation (the official copies and printed versions) and legislation.gov.uk will continue to publish digital versions of the legislation (which is then available under the Open Government Licence for commercial publishers and others to re-use).

20. I will be updating the Senedd later this year on the excellent progress made with legislation.gov.uk on expanding the functionality of the site to enable the Welsh language texts of Welsh law to be updated. But ahead of this I can reassure the Committee that arrangements are being made to ensure that future amendments to Acts and SIs forming part of a Code of Welsh law will be updated on legislation.gov.uk swiftly.

Potential changes to Standing Orders

21. The Senedd and this Committee have recognised the risks, and arguably the damage, to the accessibility of law that has been consolidated subsequently fragmenting and proliferating again if amendments are not made to the substantive Acts. That is why we need to find a way to help ensure that the Senedd itself has to agree to any future legislative proposals doing anything other than amending a Code. I don't think we can say there would never be a good reason why this might happen, but I do think we can say that the Senedd has to be content were that to be proposed.

22. It seems to me that the best way to safeguard this principle is by including a provision on this in the relevant Standing Orders for Bills (and maybe also subordinate legislation if that was something the Senedd considered necessary).

23. The Trefnydd and I will seek to raise this with the Llywydd and the Business Committee once the intentions of the Senedd are known in relation to this Bill, so that a suitable approach to engaging with Members and Party Groups on this matter can be established. To reiterate the point I made at the evidence session, this is a matter that all Members need to consider and be content with – this is because Committees, individual Members and the Commission can bring forward legislative proposals, not just the Government.

New powers of the Welsh Ministers

24. Section 2(3) of the Bill includes a new power for the Welsh Ministers to provide for exceptions to the general rule that religious buildings used for religious purposes are not monuments for the purposes of Part 2 of the Bill.

25. This power has been included because of uncertainty about the meaning of the opening words of section 61(8) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. That section prevents ecclesiastical buildings for the time being used for ecclesiastical purposes from being treated as "monuments".

26. In restating this provision in section 2(3) of the Bill, we were uncertain whether the exemption had originally been intended to apply in relation to the Church of England only, and uncertain about what the wording meant in the context of the operation of section 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (section 3 requires legislation to be read and given effect in a way that's compatible with ECHR rights, so far as it is possible to do so). We applied the provision to all religions in the first instance, because we took the view that this was the most likely ECHR compatible interpretation, but we have retained a degree of flexibility to respond to any future change in circumstances.

27. There are other examples in the Bill where provision has been moved from subordinate legislation into the Bill but changes might be needed in future. In those cases, the Bill

includes powers to amend the provisions. One example is the power in Schedule 3 to the Bill to change the categories of class consents; this is something that the 1979 Act leaves entirely to subordinate legislation. These examples do not involve the conferral of new powers and simply retain existing flexibility available to the Welsh Ministers to make adjustments to the system created by the Bill.

Section 209(6) of the Bill

28. This change has been made in the context of a change in the approach adopted by the Bill to what's covered on the face of the primary legislation. We have restated much more on the face of the Bill about key matters relevant to partnership agreements than currently appears on the face of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. For example, provision about the termination of partnership agreements is covered exclusively by the Bill and not left to regulations (as is currently the case).
29. This difference in approach justifies a different procedure in our view, and this is something we think is permitted by Standing Order 26C.2. The matters we are leaving to regulations subject to negative procedure are the types of procedural matters that are also left to negative regulations elsewhere in the Bill; for example, in the provisions about applications for scheduled monument consent.
30. It's worth noting that any regulations modifying the effect of Part 2 of the Bill to partnership agreements would still be subject to the affirmative procedure. This is consistent with the Government's policy on determining the suitable procedure to apply to subordinate legislation.

Effect of the Interpretation Act 1978 and the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 on the Bill

31. The Interpretation Act 1978 applies to all the Acts consolidated in the Bill and all the subordinate legislation made before 2020. The Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 applies to more recent subordinate legislation and will apply to the Bill. The Bill will therefore be subject to slightly different interpretation provisions from nearly all of the legislation it consolidates.
32. The main implications of this change are described in paragraphs 14 to 17 of the Drafters' Notes, and specific examples are given in the entries for sections 2, 3, 74, 160, 161 and 205 of the Bill and the entry for the omission of section 91(4) of the 1990 Listed Buildings Act. The Office of the Legislative Counsel also issued general guidance on the effect of the changes made by the Legislation Act in 2020: see <https://gov.wales/guidance-for-preparing-welsh-legislation>
33. The Schedules of generally applicable definitions in the two Acts are slightly different. In particular, the definition of "Wales" in the Interpretation Act does not include the territorial sea whereas the definition in the Legislation Act does. This has different implications for different Parts of the Bill. In Part 2, we have omitted provisions from the 1979 Act that give "Wales" the wider meaning, because they are not needed in a Bill that will be subject to the Legislation Act. In Part 3, we have added a provision giving "Wales" the Interpretation Act meaning; this preserves the effect of the silence in the 1990 Listed Buildings Act about the meaning of "Wales" (which means the Interpretation Act definition applies).

Use of 'expedient' and 'appropriate'

34. Our approach is that references to what is “appropriate” or “expedient” should not be included unless they are necessary. This reflects our general approach of omitting superfluous wording. Conversely, of course, wording should not be omitted where it is necessary.
35. Where a provision confers a power on a public authority to do something, it is generally unnecessary to require the authority to consider that doing that thing is “expedient” or “appropriate” because the law already requires public bodies to act reasonably. That position may have been less clear when some of the provisions restated in the Bill were first enacted (in some cases a very long time ago), which may explain why it was done. But a modern Bill would not normally include wording to indicate that a public body must act reasonably, and the references that have been omitted in the Bill are mainly of this kind.
36. Some references to what an authority considers “appropriate” have been retained in the Bill. This is where we think the references are necessary because the provisions in question would not work, or would be unclear, without them. But we are reviewing these references and we would be happy to look at any that the Committee considers may be unnecessary.
37. Where the Bill uses the word “appropriate,” the references should fall into the following categories:
- a. Provisions about consultation or notification often require Ministers to consult or notify specified persons and “any other persons they consider appropriate”. There are examples in sections 5(3), 78(2), 194(7) and 196(4) and paragraph 3(5) of Schedules 4 and 5, and similar provisions about who may be a party to a partnership agreement in sections 25(2) and 113(2) and (4) of the Bill. Referring only to “other persons” would be unclear and might have a different effect.
 - b. Some provisions enable or require a public authority to take action it considers “appropriate” for particular purposes or having regard to particular considerations. The references to what the authority considers appropriate make clear the connection between the action and the purposes or considerations. There are examples in sections 35(1), 123(1) and 134(1) and paragraph 2(7) of Schedule 9.
 - c. Some provisions state that a public authority may do anything it considers appropriate, in order to make clear that the power is a very broad one. This may be important if the context would otherwise suggest that the power might be narrower. There is an example in section 184(6).
 - d. Some provisions refer to what is “appropriate” for a mixture of reasons b. and c., i.e. to make clear that a public authority has a wide power to do anything it considers appropriate for a particular purpose. There are examples in sections 9(5), 42(3), 81(5), 135(3) and 143.
38. These may not be the only reasons for including the word “appropriate” in legislation. For example, the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 is a recent Act that includes the word “appropriate” in various places. Some of these references were included for reasons that are not relevant to the current Bill:
- a. Sections 12, 14, 16 and 51 of that Act confer powers for education bodies to do various things if they “consider it appropriate to do so”. These powers appear immediately after powers to do other things only if the bodies “consider it

necessary to do so". The references to what is "appropriate" are needed in these contexts to make clear that the test is not what is necessary.

- b. Sections 33(4), 45(5) and 46(3) confer powers for a body to direct another person to "take the action that it considers appropriate". The wording is included to make clear that it is the body giving the direction that determines what action it is appropriate to take.

Engagement with HMCTS

39. The Welsh Government has followed the agreed procedures to make the HM Courts and Tribunals Service and the Ministry of Justice aware of the Bill. A Justice System Impact Identification form was submitted to the Ministry of Justice who have confirmed that the Bill will have nil or minimal impact on the justice system. In addition, information has also been submitted to the Lord Chief Justice and no issues have been identified that will impact on HMCTS or the Judicial College.

Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022

40. Section 13 of the Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 was brought fully into force on 13 July 2022 by regulation 3 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Commencement No. 34) and Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2022 (SI 2022/816).

41. The Bill does not make any changes to the sentencing powers of Magistrates' Courts but incorporates actual and prospective changes to the penalties for historic environment offences made by other legislation. The only change to a sentencing power made by the Bill is in section 198, which omits the power to impose a sentence of imprisonment on conviction on indictment that is currently provided by section 330(5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. (See the entry for section 198 in the Drafters' Notes.)

Updating TAN24

42. As part of the implementation phase anticipated in relation to the Bill, guidance and advice issued by the Welsh Government, including Technical Advice Note 24, will be updated. These will be textual changes updating the references to the title of the legislation or section numbers – the policy advice contained in these documents will remain the same.

43. Schedule 14 to the Bill makes transitional provisions, so that any reference to a repealed provision or enactment is to be read as reference to the corresponding provision of the Bill.

44. As I note above, I will be updating the Senedd later this year on progress under the Government's accessibility programme, including in relation to Cyfraith Cymru. But I hope my earlier comments on the intentions for publication of the Codes on that site set out how guidance will be included.

Costs associated with implementation

45. I note your comments regarding other legislation, but we must be clear that just because other legislation may not have costs at the level of this Bill, that in and of itself does not mean these costs are significant or lacking in accuracy or robustness. To calculate costs for this Bill, the parts of the historic environment sector that would be impacted by the new legislation were identified by Cadw, together with consideration of the work that

would be required. These informed estimates of costs, that also took comparisons with recent legislation and civil service pay grades into account.

46. Overwhelmingly, the costs identified were staff costs associated with updating websites, guidance and forms so that they refer to the correct legislation. Time will also be needed for staff to familiarise themselves with the new legislation. As noted in the Explanatory Memorandum these are 'opportunity' rather than 'actual' costs – only very limited actual costs (detailed in the Explanatory Memorandum) were identified.
47. Whilst I of course understand the Committee seeking clarification on any matter set out in Explanatory Memorandum, I should make clear that the Government does not intend to complete the full regulatory impact assessments in relation to consolidation Bills as we do, where relevant, for law reform Bills. In line with Standing Orders, the Government is required to set out the best estimates of any additional costs. In developing these, if it is considered that these costs would be significant, then this would suggest that the proposals cannot continue as a consolidation Bill and the government should consider whether or not to proceed by bringing forward a reform Bill. And a full RIA would be undertaken at that time.
48. But on the points raised by the Committee, I can confirm:

a) Costs for National Park Authorities and Local Authorities

The estimate of time reflects anticipated work to update websites and other materials to include references to the new legislation and familiarising key staff with the legislation. Much of the information that local authorities provide will not change as the effect of the law will remain the same. They may need to check, for example, links which take the reader to the Cadw website to ensure that they are correct, as well as to update references to the correct legislation. This is likely to be done at a similar cost by staff of similar grades to the Welsh Government and the costs have been estimated on this basis. Although no formal consultation has been undertaken, discussions with planning authorities on the impact of the Bill and what will need to be done prior to its commencement have informed our cost estimates.

b) Costs to land owners and private individuals

There will be no costs to landowners or private individuals as there is no change in the effect of the law.

c) Costs for third sector bodies and amenity societies

It is difficult to quantify this as some organisations will include links on their website which direct the reader to the pertinent legislation or associated material which will take a matter of minutes to update. Other organisations include more detailed explanatory text which will need to reflect the new legislation which may take longer to update. It is also not possible to place a cost on the time that this may take as each organisation will have different pay levels.

d) Familiarisation workshops for heritage crime officers

Although police authorities have their own mechanisms for identifying new legislation, there is a network of officers who deal specifically with heritage crime. There are four heritage crime liaison officers in Wales, one for each police force, one of whom is the overall single point of contact (SPOC) leading on heritage crime for Wales. The familiarisation session will be carried out as part of Cadw's regular meetings with the

heritage crime liaison officers. The identified costs include Cadw's costs, opportunity costs for the heritage crime officers' time to attend the session and any time needed to update any manuals or desk instructions.

e) Welsh Archaeological Trusts and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

The Welsh Archaeological Trusts are responsible for the Historic Environment Records of Wales. '[Archwilio](#)' is the online access system to these records and contains information for the whole of Wales; some updating will be required to reflect the new legislation. The Welsh Archaeological Trusts also play a vital role in the management and promotion of the historic environment and we expect them to provide valuable assistance in raising awareness of the new legislation and related subordinate legislation and guidance. Accordingly, they will need to ensure their websites have the correct revised information.

The main costs for the Royal Commission will be associated with staff familiarising themselves with the Bill. The Commission will also need to review their websites and databases to identify changes that may be required to reflect the new legislation.

We have not undertaken formal consultation on the estimated costs, but discussions with the Welsh Archaeological Trusts and the Royal Commission suggest that this work will require minimal activity from both, and this is reflected in the cost estimates.

I look forward to the Committee's further deliberations on the Bill, and am happy to confirm that I will return to provide further evidence on 14 November.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mick Antoniw AS/MS

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

Draft Budget: 2023-24

September 2022



The Welsh Parliament is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people. Commonly known as the Senedd, it makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

An electronic copy of this document can be found on the Senedd website:
www.senedd.wales

Copies of this document can also be obtained in accessible formats including Braille, large print, audio or hard copy from:

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Draft Budget: 2023-24

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Introduction

The Welsh Parliament is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people. Commonly known as the Senedd, it makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

The budget for the Senedd Commission (“the Commission”) is used to meet the running costs of the Senedd. It also covers the costs of salaries and allowances of Members and their staff as determined by the Independent Remuneration Board.

Members of the Senedd carry significant responsibility. They make laws for Wales, represent the interests of Wales and its people, hold the Welsh Government to account and agree Welsh taxes. In turn, the Commission provides the specialist skills, support services and resources to support Members in carrying out their scrutiny, legislative and representational roles.

The Budget

The budget for 2023-24 totals £67.643 million and provides for:

- Expenditure under the Commission's direct control, including a Project Fund (the operational budget);
- Expenditure relating to work in preparation for Senedd Reform;
- Depreciation (a non-cash expense);
- Interest expense on lease liabilities as required by International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 16 (a non-cash expense)
- The budget identified for the Independent Remuneration Board's Determination on Members' Pay and Allowances;
- The budget for the clerking, administrative and other costs to provide support to the Independent Remuneration Board;
- The budget for the Office of the Standards Commissioner; and
- The accounting provision for the Members of the Senedd Pension Scheme under HM Treasury's Annually Managed Expenditure ("AME") heading (Pension Finance Cost).

The 2022-23 budget was set to provide stability for the Commission as it emerged from a global pandemic. The budget for 2023-24 and beyond will support the priorities of the Commission as it continues to adapt and respond to significant change and challenge.

The budget has been set at a level which is sufficient to allow the Commission to deliver its statutory requirements and ambitions. It is also set at a level that is mindful of the broader public sector funding context and the Senedd Finance Committee's Statement of Principles.

The operational budget for the Commission presents a 5.06% increase compared to 2022-23. This reflects anticipated savings through new ways of working, which partly offset inflationary and other increases for non-staff budget, such as increases in utility costs and an increased investment in our cyber security resilience. It also provides a 'Project Fund' against which investment plans will be prioritised according to need and the financial and personnel resource required to

deliver them. It will also fund the pay award in the staffing budget (2.4% in 2023-24) using the agreed ASHE index-linked five-year pay settlement agreed with the Trade Union side.

The pandemic has driven a change in the way in which the Commission operates day to day. How this manifests itself, in our longer term use of the estate, is now being considered and will become our 'Ways of Working' strategy.

A likely increase in the size of the Senedd, from 60 to 96 Members, in 2026 will mark a step change in the shape and form of the Senedd (Senedd Reform). Investment in staffing resource and other costs will commence by 2023-24 if Senedd Reform is to be delivered by 2026.

There are other external factors impacting on the 2023-24 budget, such as the significant increases in utility prices. The largest factor driving the increase in non-staff operating costs relates to increases in energy costs (approx. £700k). To mitigate against this in future and driven by our longer term carbon strategy, the Commission is intending to join the Cardiff District Heating network during 2024, which will use waste heat from the Cardiff incinerator to heat the Senedd estate and will provide a saving compared to wholesale gas costs.

Senedd Reform

The Commission's principal statutory function is to provide the Senedd with the property, staff and services required for the Senedd's purposes. In delivering these responsibilities it is necessary for the Commission to plan effectively for the Senedd's future requirements as well as to deliver for its current need.

On 30 May 2022 the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Electoral Reform published its report. The scope of Senedd Reform is substantial with a proposed increase to 96 Members, representing a 60% increase in the size of the Senedd. On 8 June 2022, the Senedd considered and agreed the following motion:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the report of the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform, 'Reforming our Senedd: A stronger voice for the people of Wales'.
2. Endorses the recommendations for policy instructions for legislation on Senedd Reform in time for the next Senedd elections in 2026.
3. Notes that the report also calls on the Senedd to consider a number of matters relating to Senedd reform – including the number of office holders, the potential for job sharing and the ability to increase the number of Commissioners from the current number of 4.

The implications of Senedd Reform are complex, challenging and wide ranging with a number of parties involved in the process.

The timescales for Senedd Reform once the legislation has passed are extremely tight. There is therefore merit in commencing consideration of strategic changes during the Sixth Senedd, which will enable the Senedd to work more effectively and efficiently in future and which will serve as a foundation for further change as legislative decisions are taken.

For the Commission this will require a carefully managed approach that strikes the correct balance, within political and financial constraints, between delivering excellent support for the Senedd whilst also finding efficiencies, changing resource allocations to meet new pressures and effectively securing justified increases in certain budgets.

Senedd Reform costs

The Commission, in its 11 July 2022 meeting, considered the costs that are likely to be incurred, during the Sixth Senedd, in preparation for Senedd Reform.

The costs are indicative and are still to be fully established, but early estimates are as follows:

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	£000	£000	£000
Business Directorate Staffing*	£462	£471	£481
Engagement Directorate Staffing*	£0	£0	£0
Resources Directorate Staffing*	£74	£75	£76
Non-staff costs	£35	£450	£1,730
Total	£571	£996	£2,287

**These staffing costs relate to those additional posts commencing in 2023-24 only. Additional staffing costs are likely, with additional posts commencing in 2024-25 and 2025-26, however accurate projections are not currently available.*

Staffing costs are likely to commence in 2023-24 to resource workstreams on procedural review work, Senedd Reform business co-ordination and business programme reviews. In addition, further support at senior and administrative level will be required to enable existing staff to focus on Senedd Reform.

A further post is anticipated as being necessary to resource the management of capital works associated with Senedd Reform.

The non-staff costs relate to the cost of Siambur adaptations (including additional ICT provision) to accommodate 96 Members. Indicative costs are also included for the reconfiguration of open plan office space within Tŷ Hywel into additional individual Member offices.



Ways of Working

On 14 March 2022, the Commission considered the Estate Strategy, Agile Futures and Capacity Reviews and agreed their consolidation into an integrated 'Ways of Working' Strategy and an associated delivery programme which will;

- respond to the changing internal and external environment by setting and delivering its ambition for how Commission staff work and the places in which they work; and
- if necessary, act as the framework for delivering the Commission's non-business support, enabling, and facilitation initiatives in response to Senedd Reform.

Five themes were identified as being material to delivering this ambition for how Commission staff will work in the short, medium and longer term.

Place: the estate and physical working environment;

People: generating and continuously improving an agile workforce;

Service delivery: in a way which continues to be effective and provides value for money in the changing internal and external environments;

Technology: how technology is used to support hybrid and other ways of working;

'Futures': a wide ranging ambition to support future generations to meet their needs and complementing the Commission's 2030 Carbon Neutral strategy.

The Strategy will put Member and Senedd needs first, and contain ambitions which deliver a positive impact for Members and their support staff through more responsive, efficient, and effective service delivery.

Estates Strategy

The Commission is developing its Estate Strategy as part of the new strategic 'Ways of Working' programme, taking account of the changes to our operations arising from the Covid pandemic. A business case for the future of the Colwyn Bay office, including potential options, will be presented during the 2022-23 financial year for implementation in the 2023-24 financial year.

If the preferred option results in the Commission entering into a new lease in North Wales there may be a requirement for an adjustment to the 2023-24

capital and depreciation figures, via a Supplementary Budget, to reflect the accounting requirements of IFRS 16 – Leases.

In addition, the Commission expects to receive detailed information on future accommodation options for Members and the Commission within Cardiff Bay from our external property advisers. Value for money, future space requirements (adjusted to reflect post-pandemic office attendance levels) and consideration of physical infrastructure issues (such as windows replacement) will be key factors taken into account as part of this process.

People, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

Our current people strategy, published in 2019 and covering the period until 2023, is central to the delivery of the Commission’s strategic aims, ensuring we have an agile workforce which provides the right skills, knowledge and behaviour to deliver our current goals whilst preparing for future requirements.

Our organisational values are meaningful and real; our diversity is our strength, and greater diversity will make us stronger still. We have learnt that we can do things very differently. These lessons provide the platform necessary to plan for and respond to the largest change the organisation has faced to date. Our commitment to generate and continuously improve an agile workforce is dependent on our culture of respect, passion, pride and working together to deliver effective services, inclusive leadership, and well placed capacity and resilience, against the backdrop of changing ways of working and a difficult labour market. This will require mature and long-term workforce planning.

A large percentage of the Commission’s total operating expenditure relates to staffing costs, highlighting that the Commission is a knowledge intensive organisation whose value proposition to the Senedd is our people and their knowledge, skills and experience in supporting and servicing Senedd Business and Members. Over the next twelve months we will revisit our People Strategies and action plans, honing further the priority activities which will most efficiently deliver the capacity, capability and resilience to deliver our commitments to new ways of working.

National Insurance costs

On 23 September 2022 HM Government announced its intention to decrease the rate of National Insurance contributions paid by employees and employers by 1.25% from 6 November 2022. This reduced employer contribution rate of 13.8% is reflected in the 2023-24 budget figures presented within this document.

Service delivery - Resource Management Strategy and Corporate Delivery Plan

A detailed review of staffing and non-staff budgets during August 2022 has identified potential efficiencies and savings, that may offset some of the costs of future growth requirements. The Commission is developing these potential options into a Resource Management Strategy, that will guide its approach to resource requirements for the remainder of the Sixth Senedd term.

To bring cohesion and focus to the work of the Commission over the next few years, a Corporate Delivery Plan has been introduced in the 2022-23 financial year to link strategic objectives, team service plans and individual performance objectives.

Sustainability

Underpinning all of our corporate strategies and aims is a commitment to reduce our carbon footprint.

The Senedd aims to exemplify best practice in sustainability in its operation, in line with laws passed to protect Wales's environment. We minimise resource use, divert waste away from landfill, and encourage biodiversity. As an organisation certified to the international standard ISO14001 we take our legal responsibilities seriously too, and are regularly audited on our environmental work.

As an institution we aim to be carbon neutral by 2030 by halving our current emissions then offsetting what remains.

We have short, medium and longer term goals, ranging from achieving temperature control at a 'zonal' level on the estate to the longer term aim of changing our T&S policies in a way which will encourage more sustainable travel.

Engagement

Having citizens at the heart of what we do is one of the Commission's three main priorities. Over the course of the pandemic, we have seen an unprecedented interest in Welsh politics and the work of the Senedd, which has resulted in an increased demand for news stories and higher engagement with our digital output.

We will continue to build on this success, focusing resources on creating innovative content to reach new audiences through a variety of platforms and engage them in valuable conversations about the work of the Senedd and how it impacts their lives. We will be taking full advantage of the new ways of working by utilising digital technology to further enhance audience participation and experience.

We will invest in developing a rolling engagement programme as part of our strategy for the Sixth Senedd, which will include face-to-face, virtual and hybrid experiences 'on and off' the estate.

To ensure that we appropriately capture, evaluate and offer ongoing engagement with our audiences we will require continued investment in two major projects: Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Online Engagement Tools. These projects will be in addition to the development of key areas such as audience insight, social media, and robust evaluation to be more outcome based and impact driven.

Welsh Youth Parliament

The second election for the Welsh Youth Parliament took place in November 2021. The second term will look at new issues facing young people in Wales and ensure the work and recommendations of the first Welsh Youth Parliament are taken forward.

Financial Governance and Control

The Senedd Commission Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (“ARAC”) supports the Commission and the Principal Accounting Officer regarding their responsibilities for risk management, internal control and corporate governance.

As part of its role, ARAC maintains a strong interest in, and oversight of, the internal financial control environment. Updates on accounting policies and the budgetary position are considered by ARAC and it takes a keen interest in the audit of the Annual Report and Accounts. Members of the Committee have also provided oversight and challenge of the assurance framework and governance statement.

External and Internal Audit provide important sources of assurance to ARAC and the Accounting Officer. The Auditor General for Wales (“AGW”) is the Commission’s external auditor and he is supported in his work by Audit Wales. For the 2021-22 financial year an unqualified opinion was issued on the financial statements.

In 2019, the Senedd’s Finance Committee issued a Statement of Principles for Directly Funded Bodies to consider when preparing their annual budget estimates. The Commission has kept these principles firmly in mind in the preparation of its budget estimate for 2023-24. The estimate is transparent and the evidence of the need for, and benefit from, the resources requested is provided in the narrative of this document.

The Executive Board (the “Board”) has strategic responsibility for ensuring that the Commission's resources are used effectively, provides challenge to service leaders to strive for continuous improvement and drives efforts at delivering efficiencies. The Board is responsible for approving the Commission's annual investment plans and for prioritising investment to best effect. The Board ensures that resource capacity planning aligns with the Commission's goals and priorities and provides governance and assurance to significant change projects.

Budget for the Remuneration Board's Determination

The Independent Remuneration Board is the body that determines the pay and remuneration of Members and their support staff; and the system of financial support needed for Members to fulfil their responsibilities as elected representatives.

The Remuneration Board's Determination provides the funding to cover the expenses associated with being a Member and / or an Office Holder, for example:

- running an office and engaging with constituents;
- salaries and travel expenses of support staff;
- residential accommodation in Cardiff for Members whose home is a significant distance from the Senedd (eligibility criteria apply); and
- support for the Party Groups and policy research.

The Determination sets the basic salary for Members and additional office holder salaries. The Determination also sets the mechanism for increases to these salaries; in 2023-24 it is expected that Member salaries will increase in line with the average earnings in Wales as measured by the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings ("ASHE"), capped at 3%. The basic salary for Members at the start of 2023-24 is budgeted at £69,958 which assumes a 3% increase on the current salary level of £67,920.

Members can employ staff to support them in all aspects of their role. The budget for support staff costs for 2023-24 is £9.583 million, which includes an uplift of 3%. An increase of 3% has also been applied for the following two years, since support staff costs also follow ASHE, capped at 3%.

The Determination sets out the range of costs and allowances which Members may claim in order to run their offices and fulfil their duties. The budget for office costs is £2.301 million. The Remuneration Board reviews these elements of its Determination on an annual or periodic basis to ensure that they remain

appropriate. It is not possible to anticipate decisions which the Board may choose to make in future. For budgeting purposes the inflation factor used for 2023-24 is the ONS deflator of 2.4% with an inflationary uplift of 2% to give indicative figures for the following two years.

Allowance has been made for an anticipated £0.5 million underspend against the total budget for the Remuneration Board's Determination which is a prudent assumption based on historic trends. It is likely that an amount in excess of this £0.5 million will be released from across both the support staff and the office costs budgets. This approach assists in budget management, allowing a moderate level of contingency, if the Board decides to implement changes. Should the total budget prove to be insufficient, due to e.g. increases to allowances during 2022-23 or 2023-24 it may be necessary to prepare a Supplementary Budget.

The budget to fund the Remuneration Board's Determination for 2023-24 and the following two years is shown in Table 9.

Support for the Independent Remuneration Board (Board Member Fees, clerking support etc.) is provided by the Commission. Since 2022-23 the cost of this support is ring-fenced within the total Commission budget to improve transparency. Detail is provided in Table 12.

Budget Ambit

This budget submission is laid in compliance with the Senedd Standing Order 20.13 to assist in the compilation of the Annual Budget Motion required by Section 125 of the Government of Wales Act 2006. The submission covers the resource and cash requirements of the Senedd Commission for the year ending 31 March 2024.

The Budget Motion will authorise the net resources to be used for the services and purposes of Members and Senedd Services. The motion includes the maximum income (or accruing resources) that may be retained for use on those services and purposes instead of being paid into the Welsh Consolidated Fund. It will also set out the cash amount that will be needed from the Welsh Consolidated Fund to meet the anticipated net amounts falling due for payment by the Commission.

The 2023-24 Budget for the Senedd addressing these requirements is set out in Table 1.

Table 1: 2023-24 Budget for the Senedd against requirements

Senedd Requirements	2023-24 £000
<p>Resources other than accruing resources for use by the Senedd Commission (“the Commission”) on resource and capital costs associated with the administration and operation of services to support the Senedd; promotion of the Senedd including payments to the Electoral Commission and others; payments in respect of the Commission for Standards and Remuneration Board; any other payments relating to the functions of the Senedd or functions of the Commission.</p> <p>Resources other than accruing resources for use by the Commission in respect of the decisions of the Remuneration Board and expenditure in respect of Members of the Senedd Pension provision</p>	<p>£67,643 Table 2</p>
<p>Accruing resources for retention pursuant to section 120(2) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 and use by the Commission from the disposal of fixed assets and other capital income for use on the purchase or acquisition of fixed assets, rental income, gifts, grants, cheques, recharges and income from commercial sales and other services provided to the public or others for use on administrative costs of the Senedd.</p>	<p>£170 Table 8</p>
<p>Amount to be issued from the Welsh Consolidated Fund to meet the anticipated amounts falling due for payment in the year and in respect of the above services and purposes less expected receipts and recoverable VAT</p>	<p>£61,971 Table 3</p>

Annex 1: Budget Overview

Table 2: Budget overview

Budget Heading	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Commission Related Expenditure	£000	£000	£000	£000
Staff salaries and related costs (Table 4)	£27,416	£28,357	£29,033	£29,628
Accommodation and facilities (Table 5) ⁽¹⁾	£5,489	£6,069	£6,142	£6,216
ICT costs (Table 6)	£2,614	£2,801	£2,823	£2,839
Other costs (Table 7)	£2,002	£1,961	£1,961	£1,961
Senedd Reform costs (Table 13)	£0	£571	£996	£2,287
Total Revenue Expenditure	£37,521	£39,759	£40,955	£42,931
Total Income (Table 8)	(£220)	(£170)	(£170)	(£170)
Capital Expenditure (Table 10)	£516	£500	£500	£500
Project Fund (Table 10)	£970	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
Interest Charges⁽¹⁾	£880	£866	£852	£838
Depreciation Charges⁽¹⁾	£5,410	£5,406	£5,406	£5,406
Total Commission Related Expenditure	£45,077	£47,361	£48,543	£50,505
Member Related Expenditure				
Members' salaries and related costs (Table 9)⁽²⁾	£17,552	£17,834	£18,361	£18,903
Budget for the Office of the Standards Commissioner (Table 11)	£97	£101	£102	£104
Budget to support the Independent Remuneration Board (Table 12)	£477	£547	£556	£566
Election related expenditure	£0	£0	£0	£500
Members' pension finance costs	£1,800	£1,800	£1,800	£1,800
Total Commission Budget	£65,003	£67,643	£69,362	£72,378

(1) See Table 14.

(2) As per the Remuneration Board's Determination.

Table 3: Reconciliation of the new resource requirement to the cash drawing from the Welsh Consolidated Fund

Net cash requirement	2023-24 £000
Members' net revenue requirement	£17,834
Office of the Standards Commissioner	£101
Independent Remuneration Board support costs	£547
Senedd Reform Costs	£571
Commission net revenue requirement	£46,290
Net capital requirement	£500
Annually managed expenditure	£1,800
Subtotal	£67,643
Adjustments	
Depreciation	(£5,406)
Interest charges / Capital adjustments relating to IFRS 16	(£866)
Rental payments relating to IFRS 16	£2,300
Movements in provisions	(£1,800)
Movement in debtors and creditors	£100
Subtotal	(£5,672)
Net cash requirement from the Welsh Consolidated Fund	£61,971

Annex 2: Budget Detail

Table 4: Analysis of staff salaries and related costs

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Commission staff costs	£28,591	£29,357	£30,033	£30,628
Vacant post estimate	(£1,175)	(£1,000)	(£1,000)	(£1,000)
Total	£27,416	£28,357	£29,033	£29,628

Table 5: Analysis of Accommodation and Facilities costs

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Rent and rates incl. car parking	£2,007	£1,895	£1,923	£1,951
Maintenance and works	£1,030	£1,035	£1,035	£1,035
Security	£773	£773	£773	£773
Utilities	£582	£1,251	£1,276	£1,301
Cleaning	£533	£560	£572	£584
Catering	£399	£430	£438	£447
Photocopier Rentals	£105	£65	£65	£65
Furniture and Fittings	£60	£60	£60	£60
Total	£5,489	£6,069	£6,142	£6,216

Table 6: Analysis of ICT costs

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	£000	£000	£000	£000
ICT Services	£571	£704	£704	£704
Broadcasting	£682	£766	£788	£804
Licences and Maintenance	£1,261	£1,231	£1,231	£1,231
Revenue and Consumables	£100	£100	£100	£100
Total	£2,614	£2,801	£2,823	£2,839

Table 7: Analysis of other costs

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Language contracted-out services	£300	£300	£300	£300
Promoting awareness and understanding	£271	£300	£300	£300
Training and development	£374	£344	£344	£344
Other HR costs	£166	£166	£166	£166
Insurance and legal costs	£141	£141	£141	£141
Publications	£131	£131	£131	£131
Staff T&S	£127	£108	£108	£108
Other travel and subsistence	£95	£95	£95	£95
Audit	£75	£70	£70	£70
Specialist advice	£46	£46	£46	£46
Printing, stationery and postage	£76	£60	£60	£60
Academic Engagement	£40	£30	£30	£30
Consultancy	£30	£30	£30	£30
Hospitality	£28	£28	£28	£28
Accounting and financial services	£31	£26	£26	£26
Uniforms and clothing	£15	£15	£15	£15
Vetting	£10	£10	£10	£10
Other items <£20k	£46	£61	£61	£61
Total	£2,002	£1,961	£1,961	£1,961

Table 8: Analysis of Income

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Sales - the Senedd shop	(£20)	(£20)	(£20)	(£20)
Accommodation - rental income	(£58)	(£58)	(£58)	(£58)
Car park and other income	(£142)	(£92)	(£92)	(£92)
Total	(£220)	(£170)	(£170)	(£170)

Table 9: Analysis of Members' salaries and related costs

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Senedd Members' salaries and on-costs	£6,343	£6,450	£6,643	£6,843
Members' Support Staff salaries and on-costs	£9,468	£9,583	£9,871	£10,166
Allowances and office costs	£2,319	£2,301	£2,347	£2,394
Anticipated underspend	(£578)	(£500)	(£500)	(£500)
Total	£17,552	£17,834	£18,361	£18,903

Table 10: Priority projects for 2023-24 (inc. Capital)

	2023-24
	£000
Engagement and outreach activities	£200
EFM planned expenditure	£600
ICT planned expenditure	£400
Future ways of working	£300
Total	£1,500

Table 11: Budget for the Office of the Standards Commissioner

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Staff costs	£73	£71	£72	£74
Legal Advice	£24	£30	£30	£30
Total	£97	£101	£102	£104

Table 12: Budget to support the Independent Remuneration Board

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Staff costs	£394	£462	£471	£481
Fees and Expenses	£47	£47	£47	£47
Other costs and expenses	£36	£38	£38	£38
Total	£477	£547	£556	£566

Table 13: Budget to support preparation for Senedd Reform

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Staff costs commencing 2023-24*	£0	£536	£546	£557
Staff costs commencing 2024-25 and 2025-26*	£0	£0	£0	£0
Capital related costs	£0	£35	£450	£1,730
Total	£0	£571	£996	£2,287

* These staffing costs relate to additional posts commencing in 2023-24 only. Further staffing costs are likely, with additional posts commencing in 2024-25 and 2025-26, however accurate projections are not currently available.

Table 14: Adjustment to 2022-23 Supplementary Budget lines (comparative information).

Description	2022-23 Supplementary Budget (Laid)	Adjustments	2022-23 Adjusted Total
Office Rentals	£40	£460	£500
Depreciation	£5,650	(£240)	£5,410
Interest	£1,100	(£220)	£880
Total	£6,790	£0	£6,790

Following review and to aid comparison, the three figures shown in the table above (as presented in the laid 2022-23 Supplementary budget) have been adjusted to reflect the correct accounting treatment for irrecoverable VAT on rental payments. The adjusted figures are shown in Table 2. The net overall impact on the 2022-23 operational budget is £0.

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Agenda Item 9

By virtue of paragraph(s) ix of Standing Order 17.42

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