

Finance Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 2 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Wednesday, 9 October 2013**

Meeting time: **10:00 – 11:27**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_300000_09_10_2013&t=0&l=en

Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Jocelyn Davies (Chair)
Peter Black
Christine Chapman
Paul Davies
Mike Hedges
Ann Jones
Julie Morgan
Simon Thomas

Witnesses:

Jane Hutt, Minister for Finance
Jeff Andrews, Welsh Government
Jo Salway, Welsh Government

Committee Staff:

Gareth Price (Clerk)
Meriel Singleton (Second Clerk)
Claire Griffiths (Deputy Clerk)

TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Simon Thomas AM to his first meeting of the Committee.

2 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

2.1 The Motion was agreed.

3 Consideration of draft report on the Assembly Commission draft budget 2014–15

3.1 Peter Black AM absented himself for this item due to his role as a Member of the Assembly Commission.

3.2 The Committee considered and agreed the draft report.

4 Consideration of draft report on the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales draft estimates 2014–15

4.1 The Committee considered and agreed the draft report.

5 Inquiry into Higher Education Funding: consideration of oral witnesses

5.1 The Committee considered the paper and agreed the proposed schedule of witnesses with the addition of the Chief Scientific Adviser.

6 Scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget proposals for 2014–15 – Evidence from the Welsh Government

6.1 The Committee scrutinised the Minister for Finance on the Welsh Government's draft budget for 2014-15.

Action points:

The Minister for Finance agreed to write to Committee with clarification on how the proposed HS2 project could affect Barnett consequentials if it proceeds.

The Minister for Finance agreed to clarify the level of income anticipated from Non-Domestic rates.

The Minister for Finance agreed to share more information on the where Government caps the fees that can be charged by local authorities.

The Minister for Finance agreed to forward monitoring returns on capital expenditure for schools.

The Minister for Finance agreed to send a note on the budget allocated to develop the National Adoption Agency during this financial year.

The Minister for Finance agreed to send a note and a number for what efficiencies the Welsh Government is making within its central administration.

The Minister for Finance agreed to provide a note on special treatment given to preventative spending.

The Minister for Finance agreed to send clarification on why there has been a cut in the Welsh language budget without the promised assessment of the impact of Welsh Government spending as promised by the First Minister in February 2013.

7 Papers to note

7.1 The papers were noted.

8 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2014–2015: Review of evidence received

8.1 The Committee considered the evidence received from the Minister for Finance today and agreed to write to her seeking clarification on a number of issues raised during the session.