

Agenda – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 2 – Senedd

Meeting date: 19 October 2017

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Bethan Davies

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6372

SeneddFinance@assembly.wales

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Paper(s) to note

(09.30)

(Pages 1 – 6)

2.1 PTN1 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government – Vacant Sites Levy in the Republic of Ireland – 9 October 2017

(Page 7)

3 Welsh Government draft budget 2018–19: Evidence session 4

(09.30–10.30)

(Pages 8 – 20)

Michael Trickey, Wales Public Services 2025

Dr Daria Luchinskaya, Wales Public Services 2025

Ed Poole, Wales Governance Centre

David Phillips, Institute for Fiscal Studies

[Wales Public Services 2025: Welsh Government Budgetary Trade-offs: Looking Forward to 2021–22](#)

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting

(10.30)



5 Welsh Government draft budget 2018–19: Consideration of evidence

(10.30–10.45)

6 National Assembly for Wales Commission draft budget 2018–19: Consideration of draft report

(10.45–11.30)

Paper 1 – draft report

7 Consideration of forward work programme

(11.30–12.00)

(Pages 21 – 26)

Paper 2 – Forward work programme

Concise Minutes – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: Thursday, 5 October 2017

Meeting time: 09.31 – 12.34

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/4422>

Attendance

| Category | Names |
|-------------------|---|
| Assembly Members: | Simon Thomas AM (Chair) Neil Hamilton AM Mike Hedges AM Eluned Morgan AM David Rees AM Steffan Lewis AM Nick Ramsay AM |
| Witnesses: | Mark Drakeford AM, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government Margaret Davies, Welsh Government Andrew Jeffreys, Welsh Government Suzy Davies AM, Commissioner Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive & Clerk of the Assembly Nia Morgan, Director of Finance |
| Committee Staff: | Bethan Davies (Clerk) Georgina Owen (Deputy Clerk) |



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| | Martin Jennings (Researcher) |
| | Ben Harris (Legal Adviser) |

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.

2 Paper(s) to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

3 National Assembly for Wales Commission draft budget 2018–19

3.1 The Committee took evidence from Suzy Davies AM, Commissioner for Budget and Governance; Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive and Clerk to the Assembly; and Nia Morgan, Director of Finance on the National Assembly for Wales Commission draft budget 2018–19.

3.2 The Commission agreed to write to the Committee with further information on security improvements and to share the outcome of its capacity review.

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from items 5 and 7

4.1 The motion was agreed.

5 National Assembly for Wales Commission budget 2018–19: Consideration of Evidence

5.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.

6 Welsh Government draft budget 2018–19: Evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

6.1 The Committee took evidence from Mark Drakeford AM, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government; Andrew Jeffreys, Director, Welsh Treasury; and Margaret Davies, Deputy Director, Strategic Budgeting on the Welsh Government's draft budget 2018–19.

7 Welsh Government draft budget 2018–19: Consideration of evidence

7.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.

Concise Minutes – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 4 – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: Wednesday, 11 October
2017

Meeting time: 09.02 – 12.18

This meeting can be viewed
on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/4423>

Attendance

| Category | Names |
|-------------------|---|
| Assembly Members: | Simon Thomas AM (Chair) Neil Hamilton AM Mike Hedges AM Eluned Morgan AM David Rees AM Nick Ramsay AM |
| Witnesses: | Nick Bennett, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales David Meaden, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Office Chris Vinestock, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Dr Edward Jones, Bangor University Dr Helen Rogers, Bangor University Andrew Jeffreys, Welsh Government Dyfed Alsop, Welsh Revenue Authority Julian Revell, Welsh Government |
| Committee Staff: | Bethan Davies (Clerk) |



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| | Leanne Hatcher (Second Clerk) Georgina Owen (Deputy Clerk) Joanne McCarthy (Researcher) Christian Tipples (Researcher) Ben Harris (Legal Adviser) |
|--|---|

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies were received from Steffan Lewis AM.

2 Paper(s) to note

2.1 The paper was noted.

2.1 PTN1 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government:
Report on Outturn 2016–17 – 30 September 2017

3 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Estimates 2018–19: Evidence session

3.1 The Committee took evidence from Nick Bennett, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales; Chris Vinestock, Chief Operating Officer; and David Meaden, Financial Accountant on the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales’s Estimates 2018–19.

3.2 The Ombudsman agreed to provide further details on the proportion of upheld complaints in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from items 5, 8 and 9

4.1 The motion was agreed.

5 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Estimates 2018–19:

Consideration of evidence

5.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.

6 Welsh Government draft budget 2018–19: Evidence session 2 (Bangor University)

6.1 The Committee took evidence from Dr Edward Jones and Dr Helen Rogers from Bangor University on the Welsh Government's draft budget 2018–19.

7 Welsh Government draft budget 2018–19: Evidence session 3 (Welsh Treasury)

7.1 The Committee took evidence from Andrew Jeffreys, Welsh Treasury; Dyfed Alsop, Chief Executive, Welsh Revenue Authority; and Julian Revell, Head of Fiscal Analysis, Welsh Treasury on the Welsh Government's draft budget 2018–19.

7.2 The Committee requested an update on the commitment made during Stage 2 of the Land Transaction and Anti-avoidance of Devolved Taxes (Wales) Bill, to produce a definitive Land Registry map of the Welsh border.

8 Welsh Government draft budget 2018–19: Consideration of evidence

8.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.

9 National Assembly for Wales Commission draft budget 2018–19: Consideration of evidence

9.1 The Committee considered the evidence received during last week's session on the National Assembly for Wales Commission draft budget 2018–19.

Mark Drakeford AM/AC
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

Agenda Item 2.1



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Simon Thomas AM
Chair, Finance Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
Simon.Thomas@assembly.wales

9 October 2017

Dear Simon

During the Finance Committee meeting on 5 October, you asked about the Vacant Sites Levy in the Republic of Ireland, and whether it will apply to vacant sites owned by public authorities.

I can confirm that the levy will be applied to vacant sites regardless of ownership, be it public or private. In this context, local authorities and public bodies are liable for the charge if the criteria for a vacant site are met. Further details on the implementation of the Vacant Sites Levy can be found here:

http://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/pl_07-2016_guidance_on_implementation_of_the_vacant_site_levy.pdf

I look forward to discussing progress on new taxes at future Finance Committee meetings.

Best wishes

Mark Drakeford AM/AC
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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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.

Agenda Item 3

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

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