

Elin Jones MS,  
Llywydd, Chair of the Business Committee

14 July 2021

Dear Llywydd

### **Draft Budget timetable 2022-23**

Thank you for your letter consulting the Finance Committee on the proposed timetable of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2022-23.

It is disappointing that the first Draft Budget of this Welsh Government is expected to be published during Christmas recess. Whilst the Finance Committee appreciates that the proposed budget timetable is due to the timing of the UK Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, this will be the third consecutive year that the proposed timetable has reduced the time available for scrutiny by the Senedd.

The timetable proposed by the Minister of publishing the Draft Budget on 20 December 2021 and the debate taking place on 8 February 2022 means the Committee will have less than seven weeks to scrutinise the Draft Budget. It is worth noting that this consists of four sitting weeks and three recess weeks which is less than ideal. The Committee has already agreed that it will meet during the Christmas recess.

In your letter you suggest a reporting deadline of 1 February 2022. As this would further reduce our time to scrutinise the Draft Budget we would request that the deadline is extended to 3 or 4 February. Again this is less than ideal as it reduces the time available for the Minister to thoroughly consider our recommendations and we will be unlikely to receive a Welsh Government response prior to the debate. This is also less than the seven weeks indicated in the Minister's letter.



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Nonetheless, we would urge the Minister for Finance to look at any opportunity to bring forward the date of publication earlier in the autumn. The Finance Committee would support the Business Committee revising the timetable accordingly, and more favourably in terms of the number of sitting weeks available for scrutiny.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peredur Owen Griffiths', with a horizontal line drawn through the bottom of the signature.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS / AS

Cadeirydd / Chair

Cc Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

