

Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change
Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government
Welsh Government

18 November 2021

Dear Ministers,

Welsh Government draft budget scrutiny 2022-23

In advance of our budget scrutiny at the start of 2022, we would be grateful for a paper on the allocations in your portfolios, based around the Finance Committee's agreed principles of financial scrutiny, which are:

- **Affordability** - to look at the big picture of total revenue and expenditure, and whether these are appropriately balanced;
- **Prioritisation** - whether the division of allocations between different sectors/programmes is justifiable and coherent;
- **Value for money** - Essentially, are public bodies spending their allocations well – economy, efficiency and effectiveness (i.e.) outcomes; and
- **Budget processes** - are they effective and accessible and whether there is integration between corporate and service planning and performance and financial management.


We would like you to provide details of the 2022-23 Main Expenditure Group (MEG) allocations within this Committee's remit (local government, housing and communities). Additionally, we request further detail that breaks down the allocations by Spending Programme Area, Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) and how these align with Programme for Government commitments. Can you also provide examples of preventative spend within the budget allocations?

In providing this information, can you outline how the Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment has informed and steered budgetary decisions, including examples of both positive and negative impacts of budgetary decisions. We understand that the pandemic will have a significant impact on the budget this year, can you outline how allocations have been informed by the need to target support to those most adversely affected and to support the recovery?

We would also like to explore how the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and Net Zero Wales has influenced your budget allocations.

We would appreciate this information as soon as possible after the budget has been published, preferably on the same day, 20 December 2021, but at the absolute latest we would ask for it by 4 January 2022.

Yours sincerely



John Griffiths MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.