

Mick Antoniw AS/MS  
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad  
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref: CG/00104/22

David Rees MS,  
Chair  
Llywydd's Committee  
Senedd Cymru

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19 October 2022

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 3 October to myself and the Minister for Finance and Local Government, regarding the Electoral Commission's financial estimate for 2023-24 relating to its work on devolved Welsh elections. I am replying as the Minister responsible for elections, but I am copying this letter to the Minister for Finance and Local Government given her interest in expenditure out of the Welsh Consolidated Fund and in the administration of elections by local authorities.

It is noted that the estimate presented here is £1.414m for 2023-24, compared with a projected figure of £1.25m in the previous five year plan – a 13% increase. The estimates memorandum does go some way to set out inflationary pressure related reasons for this, as well as the political literacy work, developing new education resources to support the roll-out of the new curriculum for Wales. As a consequence of the way in which the estimate has been presented, it is difficult to compare with the estimate provided in the five year plan. The Committee may therefore wish to seek assurances from the Electoral Commission that consideration has been given to possible efficiencies in order to mitigate inflationary cost pressures. It would also be helpful to receive the Commission's formal assurance that the funding from the Welsh Consolidated Fund will not relate to any increase in central recharge costs as a result in changing priorities originating from the UK Government.

Notwithstanding the above, I can confirm that the activities described by the Electoral Commission in the estimate are in line with the Welsh Government's expectations about

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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.

what will be required during the period this covers and is affordable within the funds transferred from HMT.

My officials have worked with the Electoral Commission to put in place a payment agreement, which sets out how the costs will be paid from the Welsh Consolidated Fund, according to the budget agreed by the Senedd. The first two payments for 2022-23 have been made to the Electoral Commission and a process is in place for making subsequent payments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Mick Antoniw AS/MS**

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