

Rebecca Evans MS
Minister for Finance and Local Government

17 October 2022

Dear Rebecca

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2023-24 Timetable

You will be aware that the UK Government has brought forward the publication of its Medium-Term Fiscal Plan and associated Office of Budget Responsibility forecast from 23 November 2022 to 31 October 2022.

On 1 July 2022 the Trefnydd wrote to the Business Committee setting out a timetable for the publication of the draft budget for 2023-24, in accordance with Standing Order 20. The letter stated that:

"... the Minister for Finance has committed to publish the Draft Budget at the earliest opportunity and maximise engagement wherever possible throughout the process; however, it is important for me to indicate the 'worst case scenario' timeline which is wholly dependent on the UK Government's announcements. This timeline also recognises the time needed to produce our documentation bilingually.

Our aim would be to publish the Draft Budget within four weeks of the UK Government's fiscal event, as a minimum, ensuring we can provide Senedd committees with the full eight weeks for scrutiny set out in Standing Orders."

In light of this commitment, the Committee expects the Welsh Government to bring forward the publication of its draft budget from 13 December to 29 November, four weeks after the date of the UK Government's fiscal event .

In the past, the Finance Committee has had sympathy with the Welsh Government when its funding position has not been confirmed until later in the year. However, we believe that an earlier UK fiscal event provides the Welsh Government with sufficient time and certainty to produce a draft budget by the end of November. Not doing so could be considered an attempt to reduce the scrutiny window in the Senedd and may be perceived as going back on previous assurances you have given the Committee to maximise engagement throughout the budget process and provide a full eight weeks of scrutiny.

I appreciate that preparing the draft budget this year is particularly difficult given the current economic and fiscal climate and that tough decisions will need to be made. However, that makes it even more important that adequate time is provided so that stakeholders and the public at large are able to engage with the Senedd and express their views.

I would be grateful if you could confirm your plans regarding the draft budget timetable as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.