

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee

29 May 2025

RE: Scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2025-26: Evidence provided by the Welsh Government

Dear Peredur,

Thank you for your letter dated 1 April 2025, which we considered during our meeting on 14 May 2025. Our responses to your questions are set out below.

1. What improvements would you like to see in the Welsh Government's Draft Budget documentation and subsequent ministerial written evidence? Please make reference to the timeliness, quality and usefulness of any documentation and/or evidence received in your response.

We had no concerns with the timeliness, quality or usefulness of the 2025-26 Draft Budget documentation and the ministerial written evidence that we received from either the Cabinet Secretary for Education and her Minister and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care and his Ministers. We received the evidence on time (or early), and it comprehensively answered the significant number of questions that we had submitted. It supported Members of the Committee and Senedd researchers during our scrutiny of the Draft Budget, and will feed into scrutiny work we undertake throughout the financial year.

We thank the Cabinet Secretaries, Ministers and their officials for their significant support for the scrutiny process at a particularly challenging time of the year.

2. Given the UK Spending Review, which is due to be published on 11 June 2025, will provide indicative funding for the Welsh Government future years, do you have any views on information you would require regarding a subsequent Welsh Spending Review, either along with budget documentation or as a separate exercise?

We welcome multi-year spending reviews, and urge the Welsh Government to provide the Senedd with multi-year projections of both its revenue and capital budgets following the spending review in June 2025. Alongside those projections (and alongside future Draft Budget allocations), the Welsh Government should clearly set out its funding priorities and the mechanisms by which it will use the funding at its disposal to achieve its policy objectives.

We believe that Wales deserves its fair share of funding from the UK Government. We are concerned that the current funding settlement may not fully recognise the significant levels of need across Wales. We would like information from the Welsh Government about whether, and to what extent, it has explored alternative funding mechanisms with the UK Government.

We have identified a need for additional capital and revenue investment in a range of areas, including education, local government, and health. We therefore urge both Finance Committee and the Welsh Government to advocate for a multi-year settlement that recognises that need.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.