

Ken Skates MS,
Commissioner for Budget and Governance

16 May 2022

First Supplementary Budget 2022-23: Costs to support the administration of the Independent Remuneration Board

Dear Ken,

The Committee considered the Senedd Commission's supplementary budget request at its meeting on Wednesday 11 May.

The Committee notes the proposal in the Supplementary Budget which would increase the budget for the support costs of the Independent Remuneration Board (IRB) by £218,000 and decrease the costs of the Office of the Standards Commissioner by £68,000, representing an overall net increase of £150,000.

The Committee appreciates the additional information provided to the Committee in support of the proposed increase to the IRB's resources. The Committee also welcomes the presentation of the IRB's budget as separate to the Commission's operational budget. This is a positive development and will assist the Committee in its scrutiny of the IRB's budget in future years. It also reflects the IRB's independent status and the Commission's role in providing its administrative support.

However, the Committee notes that the £218,000 additional funding request for the IRB budget is a considerable proportion of the £477,000 support costs requested in the Supplementary Budget. The Committee therefore seeks further information regarding this increase before it can express its view on the Commission's request. In particular, Members would like the Commission to explain:

- how this figure was reached, including how the Commission concluded that the IRB's request was reasonable;

- why these costs could not be funded by making in-year savings and efficiencies, or re-assigning vacant posts to this area; and
- how the additional support costs of £218,000 will be spent, if agreed.

As I'm sure you appreciate, any budgetary increases requires rigorous scrutiny, and the Committee needs to be satisfied that the Commission's use of a supplementary budget to cover these costs are a last resort and that all potential savings and efficiencies have been explored.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS

Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.