

Kirsty Williams AM
Cabinet Secretary for Education
Welsh Government
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

1 September 2017

Dear Kirsty

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2018-19

You will be aware that Assembly committees will be undertaking scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget 2018-19 during the autumn term.

Written evidence

To inform the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee's scrutiny, we would welcome written information from you on the areas detailed in the Annex to this letter. We would be grateful to receive this information by Friday 20 October 2017.

Oral evidence

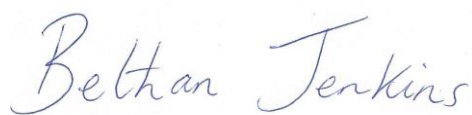
Members would also be grateful if you could attend an oral evidence session on Wednesday 8 November 2017 from 09:00 am to 10:00 am.

Approach

The Committee will seek to follow the Finance Committee's lead, basing our approach on the four principles of financial scrutiny: affordability, prioritisation, value for money and budget processes. We will also seek evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure and the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language given the relevance of their work to our remit.

In accordance with the new budget procedures, the Committee will consider whether to report our findings to the Assembly in time for the Plenary debate on the draft budget on 5 December 2017. Any report will be shared with you.

Yours sincerely



Bethan Jenkins AM
Chair



Annex

ANNEX – REQUEST FOR WRITTEN INFORMATION IN ADVANCE OF DRAFT BUDGET SCRUTINY

The Committee requests the following information:

Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations

- A breakdown of the 2018-19 draft budget allocations (as relevant to Welsh Language, Arts and Music Education) by MEG, Spending Programme Area, Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL).
- Final out-turns for 2016-17 and forecast out-turns for 2017-18.
- Indicative 2019-20 MEG allocations.
- Commentary on each of the Actions within the MEG as relevant to the Welsh Language, Arts and Music Education, including an analysis and explanation of changes between the Draft Budget 2018-19 and the First Supplementary Budget (June 2017).

Other information

- Information on how the delivery of the Welsh Language, Arts and Music Education portfolio and their associated outcomes are monitored and evaluated to demonstrate value for money.
- Details of specific policies or programmes within the relevant MEGs (relevant to Welsh Language, Arts and Music Education) that are intended to be preventative and how the value for money and cost benefits of such programmes are evaluated.
- Information on allocations (and their location) in your portfolio to provide for legislation which has the potential to impact in the financial year 2018-19 as relevant to Welsh Language, Arts and Music Education.
- Implications of the UK exit from the EU on the Welsh Language, Arts and Music Education and how the Welsh Government will manage any predicted impact.

Specific areas

Welsh in Education/ Welsh in the National Curriculum

- Allocations and commentary in respect of any budget allocations that are specifically identifiable to support the Welsh language in education with comparisons for previous years.
- Allocations and commentary in respect of the Welsh-medium education strategy.
- Allocations and commentary in respect of WESPs.
- Allocations and commentary in respect of the Welsh Language Strategy in relation to the teaching workforce.



Music Education/ Music in the National Curriculum

- Allocations and commentary in respect of any budget allocations that are specifically identifiable to support the Music in education with comparisons for previous years.
- Allocations and commentary in respect of the Music Endowment Fund

Arts Education / Art in the National Curriculum

- Allocations and commentary in respect of any budget allocations that are specifically identifiable to support Arts education with comparisons for previous years.

