

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty
Minister for Finance and Leader of the House



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Jocelyn Davies AM
Chair, Finance Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

3 December 2012

Dear Jocelyn

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT: SCRUTINY OF WELSH GOVERNMENT DRAFT BUDGET MOTION 2013 – 2014; NOVEMBER 2012

Thank you for your letter of 7 November enclosing a copy of the Finance Committee's report on the Welsh Government Draft Budget Motion 2013-14.

As I said in the Plenary debate on the Draft Budget, I welcome the feedback which emerged from the scrutiny of our spending plans. In particular, I welcome the comprehensive and constructive approach that the National Assembly for Wales adopted, including the integrated approach building on the four objectives of affordability, prioritisation, value for money and the budget process. To this end, I hope the improvements we have made to the transparency and presentation of our budget proposals have helped to support this process.

We have considered the Finance Committee's recommendations, together with the other evidence received during the scrutiny process. While we note the Committee's concerns about affordability, we have concluded that, in the main, our allocations are in the right place to deliver the Programme for Government. We have, as you know, strengthened our support in some areas and these changes are reflected in the Final Budget 2013-14 which I published on 27 November.

I enclose a note at Annex A which responds to the specific recommendations for the Welsh Government as highlighted in the Committee's report. The residual recommendations are matters more appropriate for the National Assembly for Wales.

On a separate but related matter, when I gave evidence to the Finance Committee on 25 October, I agreed to provide further information on the take-up of Council Tax Benefit. I enclose a note at Annex B.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Jane.Hutt@wales.gsi.gov.uk
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I look forward to continuing the on-going and constructive dialogue with the Finance Committee around how we can improve the budget process.

Beit Wisher,

Jane

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