

# **Y Pwyllgor Cyllid**

**FIN(3)-19-10 papur 4**

**Gohebiaeth rhwng Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid a'r Cwnsler  
Cyffredinol ynglŷn â Rhaglen Deddfwriaethol Llywodraeth  
Cynulliad Cymru**

Ynglwm fel atodiadau i'r papur hon ceir llythyr wrth Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor  
Cyllid at y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ynglŷn â rhaglen deddfwriaethol Llywodraeth  
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ac ei ymateb ef.

Gwasanaeth y Pwyllgorau

**Y Pwyllgor Cyllid  
Finance Committee**

John Griffiths AM  
Counsel General and Leader of  
the Legislative Programme  
Welsh Assembly Government

National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

5 October 2010

Dear John,

**The Welsh government's legislative programme**

The Finance Committee has been considering its work programme for the coming term during which it will have to consider the Government's draft budget as well as the draft budgets for the Assembly Commission and the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales.

The Committee has before it four proposed Measures that were laid in recent weeks, or at the end of the last term. We understand also that there are two further proposed Measures to come forward from the Government's final legislative programme and which the Government hopes will complete Stage one this term in order for the legislation to pass through the Assembly before dissolution.

I feel I have to say that this presents the Finance Committee with a quite impossible workload in such a short space of time. The Finance Committee considers that the scrutiny of proposed legislation, and the scrutiny of the Government's expenditure proposals, are a crucial part of its role in holding the Government to account. Ministers have frequently said publicly how much they consider proper scrutiny an integral and vital part of good governance in Wales. But these words mean nothing if those doing the scrutiny, such as the Finance Committee, do not have the means with which they can do this scrutiny which, in this case, means sufficient time.

/.....

And it is not just Assembly Members and the Finance Committee that suffer. These timescales place an equally intolerable burden on stakeholders and others within the democratic process, who need to feed into the Assembly's scrutiny of these Measures and the budgets.

I would be grateful to know whether in planning the Government's legislative programme the Government had due regard to the scrutiny process. In particular, I would be grateful if you would let the Finance Committee know how the Government expects it to undertake this work, and provide the appropriate level of scrutiny that the Government speaks so highly of, within the time available this term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Burns', with a small period at the end.

**Angela Burns**  
**Chair, Finance Committee**

**John Griffiths AC/AM**  
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol ac Arweinydd y Rhaglen  
Ddeddfwriaethol  
Counsel General and Leader of the Legislative Programme



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LF/JG/0025/10

Angela Burns AM  
Chair, Finance Committee

November 2010

Dear Angela

#### **THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME**

Thank you for your letter dated 5 October 2010 regarding the Welsh Assembly Government's legislative programme following your consideration of the Finance Committee's work programme.

The Welsh Assembly Government also considers proper scrutiny to be an important part of good governance in Wales and I can assure you that in planning the 4<sup>th</sup> and final legislative programme of this Assembly, the Government had due regard to the scrutiny process and the capacity of the scrutiny committees to consider new legislative proposals falling out of the 4<sup>th</sup> programme in the time remaining.

When the First Minister announced the final legislative programme in his statement in Plenary on 13 July, he stated that:

*"In recognition of the capacity of this Assembly in the remaining weeks before the Assembly elections to scrutinise any new legislation, we have had to temper our ambitions for this final programme.*

*We will aim to provide the Assembly with as much time as possible to scrutinise these items of legislation, while optimising the capacity of the Assembly to deliver our legislation and realise important changes for the people of Wales."*

As such we are seeking to bring forward only four items of legislation in this final year, three proposed Measures and one proposed Legislative Competence Order. This is significantly smaller than previous years to reflect the limited time and capacity that remains before the Assembly elections next year.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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In terms of the timing of the four proposed Measures that are currently being considered by your Committee, I understand that the Stage 1 Reports will all have been laid by the Christmas Recess which will leave three months before the Assembly elections to scrutinise the proposed Housing and Education Measures.

The management of Committee business is a matter for each Chair, and you will be aware that there are options open to you in order to accommodate the work that is before you in the remainder of this Assembly term; you may wish to ask the permission of the Business Committee to hold additional meetings of the Finance Committee, for example. In addition, the Government would certainly welcome the holding of joint scrutiny meetings between Finance Committee and those Legislation Committees also scrutinising the proposed Measures.

Finally, I am finalising my review of our legislative processes to ensure we continue to make progress in improving our systems and practices. This will benefit our internal working and also aid stakeholder across Wales in contributing to legislation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Griffiths AM'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**John Griffiths AM**