

Agenda – Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

Lleoliad: I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch a:
Ystafell Pwyllgor 5 (Hybrid) Rhys Morgan
Dyddiad: Dydd Llun, 16 Ionawr 2023 Clerc y Pwyllgor
Amser: 14.30 0300 200 6565
SeneddCydraddoldeb@senedd.cymru

Cofrestru cyn y cyfarfod (14:00 – 14:30)

- 1 **Cyflwyniad, ymddiheuriadau a dirprwyon**
(14:30)
- 2 **Papurau i'w nodi**
(14:30–14:40)
 - 2.1 **Llythyr gan y Llywydd at yr holl Aelodau ynghylch blaenoriaethu busnes y Pwyllgor**
(Tudalennau 1 – 2)
 - 2.2 **Llythyr gan y Pwyllgor Cyllid at Gadeiryddion Pwyllgorau ynghylch craffu ar y gyllideb ddrafft ar gyfer 2023–24**
(Tudalennau 3 – 6)
 - 2.3 **Llythyr gan y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad at y Cadeirydd ynghylch Cydsyniad Deddfwriaethol: Bil Cyfraith yr UE a Ddargedwir (Dirymu a Diwygio)**
(Tudalennau 7 – 8)
 - 2.4 **Llythyr gan y Dirprwy Weinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol at y Cadeirydd ynghylch y Bil Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus (Cymru)**
(Tudalennau 9 – 19)
 - 2.5 **Gohebiaeth gan y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg ynghylch y gweithlu gofal plant**
(Tudalennau 20 – 21)



- 2.6 Gohebiaeth rhwng y Prif Weinidog a'r Pwyllgor Cyllid ynghylch craffu ar oblygiadau ariannol Biliau**
(Tudalennau 22 – 26)
- 2.7 Llythyr gan y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad a Luke Fletcher at y Cadeirydd ynghylch ail gyfarfod Cynulliad Partneriaeth Seneddol y DU a'r UE**
(Tudalennau 27 – 28)
- 2.8 Llythyr gan Gymdeithas yr Ynadon at y Cadeirydd ynglŷn â thystiolaeth ychwanegol**
(Tudalennau 29 – 31)
- 3 Cynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog 17.42 (vi) a (ix) i benderfynu gwahardd y cyhoedd o'r cyfarfod ar gyfer eitemau 4, 5, 6 a 8**
(14:40)
- 4 Blaenraglen waith**
(14:40–15:10) (Tudalennau 32 – 43)
- 5 Ymchwiliad i gyfiawnder data:Ystyriaeth penodi cynghorydd arbenigol**
(15:10–15:15) (Tudalennau 44 – 46)
- 6 Bil Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus: Trefn y Broses Ystyried – cytuno cyn trafodion Cyfnod 2**
(15:15–15:20) (Tudalen 47)
- EGWYL (15:20–15:30)**
- 7 Cyllideb Ddrafft 2023–24: sesiwn dystiolaeth weinidogol**
(15.30 – 17.00) (Tudalennau 48 – 110)
- Jane Hutt, Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Hannah Blythyn, Y Dirprwy Weinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Claire Bennett – Cyfarwyddwr Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi
Maureen Howell – Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr Trechu Tlodi a Chefnogi Teuluoedd

Sian Gill - Pennaeth Adrodd Ariannol

8 Cyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24: trafod y dystiolaeth

(17:00-17:15)



Y Gwir Anrhydeddus Elin Jones AS

Llywydd, Senedd Cymru

Right Honourable Elin Jones MS

Llywydd, Welsh Parliament

Eitem 2.1
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
Llywydd@senedd.cymru
0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN
Llywydd@senedd.wales
0300 200 6565

Yr holl Aelodau

Drwy e-bost

1 Rhagfyr 2022

Annwyl Aelod,

Blaenoriaethu Busnes Pwyllgorau

Yng nghyfarfodydd diweddar Fforwm y Cadeiryddion, mae pryderon wedi cael eu codi bod lleiafrif o Aelodau, ar adegau, yn blaenoriaethu ymrwymadau eraill ar draul busnes eu pwyllgorau.

Cafodd Canllawiau diwygiedig ar Drafodion Rhithwir a Hybrid, gan gynnwys trafodion pwyllgorau eu cylchredeg yn ddiweddar. Hoffwn atgoffa Aelodau hefyd o bwysigrwydd neilltuo amser ar gyfer busnes pwyllgorau.

Mae absenoldeb achlysurol o gyfarfodydd pwyllgorau yn rhywbeth a ragwelir yn ein trafodion, ond pan fydd Aelodau yn absennol, disgwylir iddynt anfon dirprwy ar eu rhan i osgoi tarfu ar fusnes y pwyllgorau.

Un mater, a ddisgrifiwyd gan Gadeiryddion, yw bod rhai aelodau pwyllgor yn rheolaidd yn gadael ar ddiwedd rhan gyhoeddus cyfarfod. Golyga hyn eu bod yn absennol ar gyfer unrhyw eitemau agenda preifat a drefnwyd ar gyfer diwedd cyfarfod. Mae hyn yn amharu ar waith rhai pwyllgorau.

Mae Fforwm y Cadeiryddion wedi cymeradwyo adroddiad yr Athro Diana Stirbu: Pŵer, Dylanwad ac Effaith Pwyllgorau'r Senedd: Datblygu fframwaith ar gyfer mesur effeithiolrwydd pwyllgorau.

Fel rhan o'i gwaith, ystyriodd yr Athro Stirbu nodweddion effeithiolrwydd pwyllgorau. Un nodwedd sy'n codi o'i hymchwil yw:

Mae gan bwyllgorau effeithiol Aelodau sydd wedi ymgysylltu â'u gwaith yn llawn ac maent â diddordeb ynddo. Mae'r aelodau'n barod, yn gwrando ac yn cefnogi ei gilydd mewn sesiynau pwyllgor.

Mae Cadeiryddion Pwyllgorau yn disgwyl i aelodau pwyllgorau ymwneud yn llawn â phob agwedd ar waith eu pwyllgorau, a rhoi mwy o flaenoriaeth i'w gwaith pwyllgor nag i'w hymrwymiaadau eraill am y cyfnod llawn y bydd pwyllgor yn cyfarfod (gan gynnwys unrhyw eitemau preifat a drefnwyd). Mae hyn yn hanfodol os yw pwyllgorau am gyflawni eu hamcanion mewn modd effeithiol.

Wrth gwrs, mae'n bosibl y bydd aelod yn methu ag ymgysylltu'n llawn â gwaith pwyllgor am resymau dilys. Mewn amgylchiadau o'r fath, dylai Aelod drafod y mater â Chadeirydd y pwyllgor perthnasol. Gall Cadeirydd y pwyllgor bwysu a mesur y mater o safbwynt cefnogi'r Aelod ac o safbwynt cyflawni amcanion y pwyllgor.

Yn gywir,



Y Gwir Anrh. Elin Jones AS

Y Llywydd

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu'n Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg
Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon, a
Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol
Cadeirydd Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Cadeirydd, y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai

12 Rhagfyr 2022

Annwyl Gadeiryddion y Pwyllgorau

Cyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24

Ysgrifennais atoch cyn toriad yr haf mewn perthynas â gwaith ymgysylltu y Pwyllgor Cyllid cyn y Gyllideb a dadl y Pwyllgor yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar Flaenoriaethau Gwariant Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer y Gyllideb sydd i ddod. Ysgrifennaf yn awr i roi diweddariad pellach ar y gwaith craffu ar y Gyllideb Ddrafft.

Ymgynghoriad

Ar ddechrau tymor yr hydref, cynhaliodd y Pwyllgor Cyllid ymgynghoriad i geisio gwybodaeth am y Gyllideb Ddrafft ar ran yr holl Bwyllgorau. Cawsom 29 o ymatebion ac mae'r rhain ar gael ar [wefan y Pwyllgor Cyllid](#).

Amserlen

Fel y gwyddoch, mae Llywodraeth wedi gohirio cyhoeddi ei Chyllideb Ddrafft eto eleni oherwydd Datganiad Hydref y DU a gyhoeddwyd ar 17 Tachwedd. Mae'r Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol (y Gweinidog) wedi cadarnhau y bydd yn cyhoeddi'r fersiynau amlinellol a manwl o'r Gyllideb Ddrafft gyda'i gilydd ar 13 Rhagfyr. Bydd y Gweinidog yn ymddangos gerbron y Pwyllgor Cyllid ar 14 Rhagfyr am sesiwn dystiolaeth gychwynnol ar y Gyllideb Ddrafft.

Ffocws y Gyllideb

Mae Cyllideb eleni yn debygol o ganolbwyntio ar yr argyfwng costau byw, costau ynni cynyddol a chwyddiant uchel. Yn ogystal, mae'r Pwyllgor Cyllid wedi nodi nifer o feysydd yr ydym am i'r gwaith craffu ganolbwyntio arnynt, sef:

- pa effaith y mae pwysau chwyddiant yn ei chael ar gyllidebau refeniw a chyfalaf a sut mae hyn wedi newid fforddiadwyedd cynlluniau blaenorol;
- sut y dylid targedu adnoddau i gefnogi adferiad economaidd a pha sectorau yn benodol y mae angen eu blaenoriaethu;
- i ba raddau y dylid blaenoriaethu lliniaru newid yn yr hinsawdd wrth gefnogi adferiad economaidd;
- sut mae dyraniadau cyllideb yn cefnogi'r dyheadau yng nghynllun Sero Net Cymru;
- polisiau Llywodraeth Cymru i leihau tlodi ac effaith argyfwng costau byw ac anghydraddoldeb rhywiol;
- y dull gweithredu o ran gwariant ataliol, a sut y cynrychiolir hyn wrth ddyrannu adnoddau (gwariant ataliol = gwariant sy'n canolbwyntio ar atal problemau a lliniaru'r galw am wasanaethau yn y dyfodol, drwy ymyrryd yn gynnar);
- cynaliadwyedd gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, arloesi a gweddnewid gwasanaethau;
- sut y mae tystiolaeth yn llywio gwaith Llywodraeth Cymru o ran pennu blaenoriaethau a dyrannu'r gyllideb;
- sut y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru ddefnyddio pwerau trethu a benthyca;
- cefnogaeth i fusnesau, twf economaidd ac amaethyddiaeth ar ôl cyfnod pontio'r UE;
- beth yw'r cyfleoedd allweddol i fuddsoddiad y Llywodraeth gefnogi 'ailgodi'n gryfach' (h.y. cefnogi economi a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus sy'n cyflawni'n well yn erbyn y nodau llesiant yn Neddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol).

Yn ogystal, nodwyd y meysydd canlynol fel blaenoriaethau yn ystod digwyddiadau rhanddeiliaid ac ymgysylltu'r Pwyllgor yn ystod tymor yr haf:

- mynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldeb a thlodi – beth yw'r blaenoriaethau a pha mor addas yw'r cymorth presennol o ystyried cyfran y bobl sy'n byw mewn tlodi cymharol o ran incwm, yng Nghymru?

- Rhestrau aros y GIG – a oes tystiolaeth o gynllun cadarn, wedi'i ategu gan adnoddau digonol, i fynd i'r afael â'r nifer uchaf erioed o bobl yng Nghymru sydd ar restrau aros ar gyfer triniaeth gan y GIG sydd wedi'i chynllunio neu nad yw'n fater brys, a yw'n amlwg bod hyn yn flaenoriaeth i Lywodraeth Cymru?
- plant a phobl ifanc – a yw digon o arian yn cael ei ddarparu a'i gyfeirio'n briodol i gefnogi plant a phobl ifanc y mae'r pandemig wedi effeithio ar eu haddysg, eu datblygiad, eu hiechyd meddwl a'u llesiant?
- materion yn ymwneud â chynaliadwyedd hirdymor y GIG, gofal cymdeithasol, addysg bellach ac uwch, llywodraeth leol a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus eraill, gan gynnwys sut y gallant wneud arbedion effeithlonrwydd a thrawsnewid y ffordd y maent yn darparu gwasanaethau.
- yr economi a seilwaith – a yw'r cynlluniau cywir yn cael eu blaenoriaethu i gefnogi busnesau ac economi Cymru, sut mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn galluogi Cymru i ffynnu ar ôl COVID-19 a Brexit?
- sut y dylai'r Gyllideb fynd i'r afael ag anghenion pobl sy'n byw mewn cymunedau gwledig a datblygu economïau gwledig?
- creu Cymru wyrddach – a yw cynlluniau Llywodraeth Cymru i symud i economi wyrddach yn glir ac a oes digon o fuddsoddiad yn cael ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â newid yn yr hinsawdd a'i effeithiau? A oes angen diwygio'r cynlluniau hyn i adlewyrchu'r brys cynyddol i leihau'r ddibyniaeth ar nwy ac olew o ystyried y rhyfel yn Wcráin?
- y trydydd sector a gwirfoddoli – sut y gall Llywodraeth Cymru gefnogi sefydliadau'r trydydd sector wrth iddynt fynd i'r afael â heriau ariannol a galw cynyddol am rai gwasanaethau o ganlyniad i'r argyfwng costau byw a'r pandemig?
- trethiant - sut y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru ddefnyddio ei phwerau codi trethi a benthyca ac a ydych yn teimlo y dylid ehangu'r pwerau hyn, eu cadw'r un fath neu eu lleihau?

Gobeithiwn y bydd yr ymgyngoriad a'r gwaith ymgysylltu yn ategu ac yn llywio gwaith y Pwyllgorau polisi, a byddwn yn eich annog i ddefnyddio rhai o'r meysydd a amlinellir uchod fel ffocws ar gyfer eich gwaith craffu ar y gyllideb.

Protocol Proses y Gyllideb

Fel y crybwyllwyd, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gohirio cyhoeddi ei Chyllideb Ddrafft eto eleni. Dyma'r bedwaredd flwyddyn yn olynol y bu oedi, sydd wedi arwain at gyfnodau craffu cwtogedig i'r Senedd. Mae'r Pwyllgor Cyllid o'r farn, felly, ei bod yn bryd adolygu Protocol Proses y Gyllideb a gyflwynwyd yn 2017. Mae gan y protocol lawer o fanteision, ond credwn fod angen ei ddiweddarau i

adlewyrchu arferion sefydledig a phrofiadau diweddar, yn enwedig y duedd yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf i Lywodraeth Cymru ohirio cyhoeddi ei Chyllideb Ddrafft oherwydd amseriad digwyddiadau cyllidol y DU. Rwyf [wedi ysgrifennu](#) at y Gweinidog yn ddiweddar yn cynnig newidiadau yn y meysydd a ganlyn:

- ffurfioli gwaith ymgysylltu cyn y Gyllideb a gwaith craffu'r Pwyllgor; a
- darparu mwy o sicrwydd mewn perthynas ag amseriad y Gyllideb Ddrafft.

Mae'r Gweinidog eisoes wedi mynegi parodrwydd i ymgysylltu â'r Pwyllgor Cyllid ar y mater hwn, ac rydym yn gobeithio y bydd yn barnu bod y newidiadau hyn yn gymesur. Byddaf yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i Gadeiryddion y Pwyllgorau ar y mater hwn unwaith y byddaf wedi cael ymateb y Gweinidog. Mae'r Pwyllgor Cyllid yn gobeithio y gellir mynd i'r afael â'r newidiadau hyn a'u rhoi ar waith cyn cylch cyllideb 2024-25.

Os oes gennych gwestiynau am unrhyw agwedd ar broses y Gyllideb Ddrafft, mae croeso i chi gysylltu â mi neu ag Owain Roberts, Clerc y Pwyllgor Cyllid, ar 0300 200 6372 neu yn seneddcyllid@senedd.cymru.

Yn gywir,



Peredur Owen Griffiths
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Jenny Rathbone AS
Cadeirydd, y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder
Cymdeithasol

14 Rhagfyr 2022

Annwyl Jenny,

Cydsyniad Deddfwriaethol: Bil Cyfraith yr UE a Ddargedwir (Dirymu a Diwygio)

Byddwch yn ymwybodol bod Llywodraeth y DU wedi cyflwyno Bil Cyfraith yr UE a Ddargedwir (Dirymu a Diwygio) ('y Bil') i Senedd y DU. Pe bai'r Bil yn cael ei basio, byddai'n rhoi ar waith gynllun Llywodraeth y DU i ddargadw, dirymu neu ddiwygio miloedd o ddarnau o gyfraith yr UE a ddargedwir. Byddai hefyd yn dechrau'r cloc ar y cyfnod hyd at 31 Rhagfyr 2023, pan fydd y rhan fwyaf o gyfraith yr UE a ddargedwir yn dod i ben yn awtomatig oni bai bod Gweinidogion yn cymryd camau i'w achub neu ei ddiwygio. Yr hyn sy'n destun pryder i ni, fel deddfwyr, yw'r ffaith y byddai'r Bil yn galluogi Gweinidogion, yn hytrach na seneddau, i newid tirwedd reoleiddio a chyfreithiol y DU yn sylweddol.

Mae fy Mhwyllgor i, ers peth amser, wedi bod yn cadw llygad ar gynllun Llywodraeth y DU ar gyfer cyfraith yr UE a ddargedwir, a gwnaethom ddechrau gofyn cwestiynau i Lywodraeth Cymru rai misoedd yn ôl.

Gyda'r Bil yn cael ei gyflwyno gerbron Senedd y DU, a chan ragweld y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn cyflwyno'r memorandwm cydsyniad sy'n debygol o fod yn angenrheidiol, cytunodd fy Mhwyllgor i glywed barn rhanddeiliaid yng Nghymru a ledled y DU. Gofynnwyd am safbwyntiau ar nifer o faterion gan gynnwys i ba raddau y gallai'r Bil effeithio ar dirwedd reoleiddiol Cymru; pa rôl ddylai fod gan y Senedd o ran dirymu a diwygio cyfraith yr UE a ddargedwir mewn meysydd datganoledig; penderfyniad Llywodraeth Cymru i beidio â chynnal ei hasesiad ei hun o gyfraith yr UE a ddargedwir, gan gynnwys peidio â ffurfio ei barn ei hun ar yr hyn sydd wedi'i ddatganoli a'r hyn sydd wedi'i gadw;

ac a allai'r Bil gyflwyno cyfyngiadau newydd i Lywodraeth Cymru, sydd am wella'r safonau a oedd ar waith cyn Brexit, lle bo modd.

Amgaeir y dystiolaeth a gawsom gan Ganolfan Llywodraethiant Cymru a Chyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru, a'r Prosiect Cyfraith Gyhoeddus. Credwn y gallai'r dystiolaeth hon fod o ddiddordeb i'ch Pwyllgor.

Byddwch hefyd yn ymwybodol bod Llywodraeth Cymru bellach wedi gosod memorandwm cydsyniad deddfwriaethol gerbron y Senedd mewn perthynas â'r Bil, ac mai fy Mhwyllgor i sydd â'r prif gyfrifoldeb am graffu ar y memorandwm.

Yn ein cyfarfod ddydd Llun 5 Rhagfyr, cawsom dystiolaeth gan Mick Antoniw AS, y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad, mewn perthynas â'r Bil a memorandwm cydsyniad deddfwriaethol Llywodraeth Cymru. Efallai yr hoffech nodi bod y Cwnsler Cyffredinol wedi ailadrodd ei bryderon y gallai gweithredu'r Bil, pe bai'n cael ei basio a'i ddeddfu, lethu llywodraethau'r DU. Efallai yr hoffech nodi hefyd y cafodd pryderon ynghylch y goblygiadau i Fusnes y Senedd ac i raglen ddeddfwriaethol Llywodraeth Cymru eu trafod hefyd.

Rwy'n ysgrifennu at bwyllgorau eraill y Senedd i dynnu sylw at y dystiolaeth a gawsom sy'n dod o fewn cylch gwaith a buddiannau eu Pwyllgorau.

Yn gywir,

Huw Irranca-Davies

Huw Irranca-Davies

Cadeirydd



Jenny Rathbone AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

15 Rhagfyr 2022

Annwyl Jenny,

Bil Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus (Cymru)

Yn ystod y ddadl Egwyddorion Cyffredinol ar y Bil Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus (Cymru) ar 29 Tachwedd 2022, dywedais y byddwn yn ysgrifennu atoch i gadarnhau mewn mwy o fanylder ymatebion Llywodraeth Cymru i argymhellion eich Pwyllgor.

Fel y dywedais yn ystod y ddadl, rwy'n ddiolchgar i'r Pwyllgor am ei waith craffu ystyriol yng Nghyfnod 1, ac am argymhelliad 1 a oedd yn cadarnhau bod y mwyafrif o'r Pwyllgor yn cytuno y dylai'r Senedd gefnogi egwyddorion cyffredinol y Bil.

Mae argymhelliad 2 yn argymhelliad eang sy'n cael ei dderbyn mewn egwyddor ar y seiliau a ganlyn:

- i. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru eisoes yn ymgysylltu â phartneriaid cymdeithasol fel rhan o'n gwaith o adnewyddu'r Ddamcaniaeth Newid. Bydd ymchwil Damcaniaeth Newid yn ein galluogi i nodi'r allbynnau a'r canlyniadau allweddol a ddisgwylir yn sgil y Bil a'r data sydd eu hangen i fonitro a gwerthuso cynnydd. Fodd bynnag, ni fydd yn bosibl nodi canlyniadau a metrigau allweddol yn ymwneud â mentrau polisi penodol a allai ddeillio yn y dyfodol o waith y Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol; neu mewn perthynas â gweithredu'r Ddyletswydd Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol gan gyrrff cyhoeddus penodedig; neu ynghylch sut y gall cyrff cyhoeddus weithredu'r gwelliant 'Gwaith Teg' i'r nod "Cymru Lewyrchus" yn Neddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015. Mae hyn oherwydd nad ydym yn gwybod ar hyn o bryd ar ba faterion y bydd y Gweinidogion yn gofyn i'r Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol am gyngor, neu ar ba faterion y bydd y Cyngor yn dewis canolbwyntio, neu sut y bydd y dyletswyddau newydd ar gyrrff cyhoeddus yn dylanwadu ar eu penderfyniadau a'u gweithredoedd yn y dyfodol. I bennu metrigau a chanlyniadau byddai'n ofynnol inni

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

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Gohebiaeth.Hannah.Blythyn@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Hannah.Blythyn@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

ragfarnu'r holl bethau hyn neu wneud rhagdybiaethau a allai fod yn anghywir yn y pen draw

- ii. Cyn belled ag y mae'r dyletswyddau caffael cymdeithasol gyfrifol yn y cwestiwn, rydym wrthi'n gweithio drwy ganlyniadau a metrigau fel rhan o'r prosiect Gwerth Cymdeithasol, er na fydd y gwaith hwn yn cael ei gwblhau mewn pryd inni rannu'r canlyniadau â'r Pwyllgor yn rhan o'r broses graffu. Fodd bynnag, bydd ein fframwaith gwerthuso yn cael ei gyhoeddi maes o law
- iii. Rydym yn diweddarau'r Memorandwm Esboniadol a'r Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol ac, er ein bod wedi ein bodloni ein bod wedi cyfleu gweledigaeth gyffredinol y Bil yn glir, yn rhan o'r gwaith hwnnw byddwn yn ystyried sut y gallwn ddatblygu ymhellach y naratif sy'n sail i'r Bil

O ran argymhelliad 3 sy'n argymhell ein bod yn nodi cylch gwaith ar gyfer y Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol, cadarnheais yn ystod y ddadl na fyddai Llywodraeth Cymru yn derbyn yr argymhelliad hwn ar y sail bod y Bil ei hun yn diffinio swyddogaethau'r Cyngor a'r ffordd y bydd yn cael ei gyfansoddi, yn ogystal â rhoi pwerau a swyddogaethau atodol eang iddo ar drywydd y swyddogaethau hynny, sydd yn gydbwysedd cywir ym marn Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae gwaith eisoes ar y gweill gyda phartneriaid cymdeithasol, drwy'r Fforwm Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol, i fraenaru'r tir ar gyfer y Cyngor. Mae hyn yn cynnwys trefniadau ymarferol a thrafodaethau ar raglen waith gychwynnol. Byddaf yn rhoi diweddariadau i'r Pwyllgor ar waith y Fforwm.

Derbynnir Argymhelliad 4, a bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn cyflwyno gwelliant yng Nghyfnod 2 i ychwanegu dyletswydd i ymgynghori ag aelodau eraill y Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol cyn gwneud diwygiadau i weithdrefnau'r Cyngor.

Ni dderbynnir argymhellion 5 a 6. Yn unol â'm hymateb i argymhelliad 3 uchod, ac fel y dywedais yn ystod y ddadl, mae Llywodraeth Cymru o'r farn y dylai'r Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol gael hyblygrwydd i benderfynu ar ei ffyrdd ei hun o weithio - gan gyd-fynd ag egwyddorion partneriaeth gymdeithasol. Ni fyddai unrhyw beth yn y Bil yn atal dull gorchwyl a gorffen ar gyfer rhywfaint o waith y Cyngor neu ei waith i gyd. Nid ydym chwaith yn bwriadu darparu mewn deddfwriaeth ar gyfer unrhyw is-grwpiau ychwanegol. Eto, y Cyngor fydd i benderfynu pa is-grwpiau y mae am eu sefydlu yng nghyd-destun ei raglen waith a fydd yn newid a datblygu dros amser.

Derbynnir argymhelliad 7 mewn egwyddor. Ar hyn o bryd rwy'n ystyried dulliau gweithredu posibl a fyddai'n ceisio sicrhau bod aelodau undeb penodol nad ydynt yn perthyn i TUC Cymru yn cael eu cynrychioli ar y Cyngor. Byddaf yn ysgrifennu atoch eto cyn ein sesiwn Pwyllgor yng Nghyfnod 2 i roi gwybod am fy amcanion o ran y mater hwn.

Derbynnir argymhelliad 8. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cytuno bod yn rhaid i'r Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol adlewyrchu pob cefndir yng Nghymru, ac rydym eisoes yn gweithio gyda phartneriaid cymdeithasol, drwy'r Fforwm Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol, er mwyn sicrhau bod penodiadau i'r Cyngor mor eang a chynrychioladol ag y gallant fod.

Gwrthodir argymhelliad 9. Nodais yn fanwl yn ystod y ddadl egwyddorion cyffredinol y rhesymau pam nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn derbyn bod angen mecanwaith cyfryngu neu ddatrys anghydfodau. Mae'r ddyletswydd yn adran 16 yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i gyrrff cyhoeddus geisio yn hytrach na sicrhau consensws neu gyfaddawd gyda'u hundebau llafur cydnabyddedig neu eu cynrychiolwyr staff wrth osod eu hamcanion llesiant. Os, am ba bynnag reswm, nad yw'n bosibl dod i gytundeb er bod pob ymdrech wedi'i gwneud, bydd y ddyletswydd i geisio consensws Tudalen y cyfnewid hynny yn cael ei gollwng. I bob pwrpas,

ni fyddai unrhyw achos i gyfryngu rhwng y ddau barti dan sylw. Pan fo pryderon ynghylch sut mae corff cyhoeddus yn mynd ati i ollwng ei swyddogaethau statudol, mae gan Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru bwerau i ymchwilio i gwynion yn erbyn cyrff cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys cwynion am gamweinyddu, ac mae rôl Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru yn cynnwys archwilio sut mae cyrff cyhoeddus yn rheoli a gwario arian cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys sut maent yn sicrhau gwerth am arian wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Yn y pen draw, gellir herio gweithredoedd cyrff cyhoeddus yn y llysoedd.

Derbynnir argymhelliad 10 ar y sail ein bod eisoes wedi ymrwymo i lunio canllawiau penodol ar Waith Teg. Bydd hyn yn cefnogi cyrff cyhoeddus i osod amcanion sy'n gwneud y gorau o gyfraniad y corff at waith teg fel rhan o nod llesiant Cymru Lewyrchus a'r camau y gallant eu cymryd. Er hynny, fel sy'n wir yn awr, cyrff cyhoeddus fydd yn penderfynu ar eu hamcanion a'r camau y byddant yn eu cymryd i gyflawni'r amcanion hynny fel rhan o'u dyletswydd llesiant o dan Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol.

Roedd yr amser byr a oedd gennyf i ymateb yn ystod y ddadl yn golygu nad oeddwn yn gallu egluro'n llawn pam nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn gallu derbyn argymhellion 11 a 12 sy'n ymwneud â rôl Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol a chyfrifoldebau byd-eang cyrff cyhoeddus o dan Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol.

O ran argymhelliad 11, ni fydd y Bil yn gosod unrhyw ddyletswyddau, pwerau, na rhwymedigaethau ychwanegol ar y Comisiynydd. Bydd angen i swyddfa'r Comisiynydd, fel unrhyw gorff arall, ymwneud â'r agenda partneriaeth gymdeithasol wrth iddi ddod yn rhan ganolog o sut mae cyrff cyhoeddus yn gweithio yng Nghymru. Y Comisiynydd sydd i benderfynu ar ei flaenoriaethau wrth gyflawni ei ddyletswydd gyffredinol i hyrwyddo'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy. Bydd Gwaith Teg yn un o nifer o ddeilliannau a ddisgrifir yn y saith nod llesiant y bydd y Comisiynydd yn cyfrannu atynt drwy ei waith ar hyrwyddo'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy wrth lywio sut mae cyrff cyhoeddus yn gweithio. O ran cyllid y Comisiynydd, mae'r Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ar hyn o bryd yn ystyried yr amcangyfrif statudol gan swyddfa'r Comisiynydd yn rhan o drafodaethau parhaus am y gyllideb. Os penderfynir bod angen cyllid ychwanegol ar y Comisiynydd i gefnogi'r cyrff ychwanegol arfaethedig sy'n ddarostyngedig i'r ddyletswydd llesiant yn dilyn yr ymgynghoriad, byddwn yn sicrhau bod yr wybodaeth hon yn cael ei chyfleu i'r Pwyllgor.

Hoffwn hefyd ychwanegu at yr hyn a ddywedais yn y Cyfarfod Llawn mewn perthynas ag argymhelliad 12, sy'n argymhell ein bod yn cyflwyno gwelliant i'r Bil ynghylch y nod llesiant o ran chyfrifoldebau byd-eang, ac i fynd i'r afael â'r materion a godwyd gan Masnach Deg Cymru ac eraill yn eu nodyn briffio i'r Aelodau. Mae'r pryderon hyn yn ymwneud â sut y diffinnir "ardal" sefydliad contractio yn adran 22(3) o'r Bil fel "ardal y mae'r awdurdod yn arfer ei swyddogaethau ynddi yn bennaf, gan ddiystyru unrhyw ardaloedd y tu allan i Gymru" (na all y Bil wneud darpariaeth mewn cysylltiad â hwy). I fod yn glir, mae'r ddarpariaeth "diystyru" hon yn cyfeirio at lle y gall swyddogaethau corff weithredu neu gael eu gollwng, sef, ar gyfer deddfwriaeth a wneir gan y Senedd, Cymru. Nid yw'n atal awdurdod contractio rhag ystyried materion fel caethwasiaeth fodern mewn cadwyni cyflenwi dramor neu faterion amgylcheddol ar draws y byd. Ac, i'r graddau bod awdurdodau'n ddarostyngedig i'r dyletswyddau datblygu cynaliadwy o dan Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, bydd hi'n ofynnol iddynt gymryd camau i gyfrannu at y nod llesiant Cymru sy'n gyfrifol yn fyd-eang, sy'n golygu bod rhaid iddynt ystyried a all camau penodol wneud cyfraniad cadarnhaol at lesiant byd-eang wrth gyflawni eu dyletswyddau llesiant. Dywedais yn ystod y ddadl y byddwn yn trefnu i gyfarfod â chynrychiolwyr y sefydliadau hynny a gyflwynodd y nodyn briffio. Byddaf yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Pwyllgor am ganlyniad y cyfarfod hwnnw ar ôl iddo gael ei gynnal.

O ran argymhelliad 13, y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei dderbyn, byddaf yn rhoi diweddariad i'r Pwyllgor unwaith y bydd trafodaethau pellach wedi'u cynnal â'r Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol a'r Comisiwn Elusennau mewn perthynas ag effeithiau posibl rhoi'r cyrff hyn o fewn cwmipas dyletswyddau caffael cymdeithasol gyfrifol y Bil.

Mewn perthynas ag argymhelliad 14, sydd hefyd yn cael ei dderbyn, byddwn yn nodi manylion pellach yn y Memorandwm Esboniadol diwygiedig i egluro sut mae'r ddyletswydd Caffael Cyhoeddus, a nodir yn y Rheoliadau sydd yn atodol i'r Ddyletswydd Cydraddoldeb Sector Cyhoeddus, a'r ddyletswydd caffael cymdeithasol gyfrifol yn y Bil, yn cyd-fynd â'i gilydd.

O ran argymhelliad 15, fel y nodais yn ystod y ddadl, mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cytuno â'r sylw y dylem fod yn defnyddio caffael cyhoeddus i gefnogi economi Cymru ac y gallai hyn o bosibl gael ei gyflawni drwy osod targedau. Fodd bynnag, nid ydym o reidrwydd yn cytuno â barn y Pwyllgor y byddai cynnwys targedau ar wyneb y Bil yn 'sicrhau bod nodau'r ddyletswydd caffael cymdeithasol gyfrifol yn cael eu gwireddu'. Mae trafodaethau â phartneriaid yn parhau mewn perthynas â'r mater hwn, a byddaf yn rhoi gwybodaeth bellach i'r Pwyllgor am ganlyniad y trafodaethau hynny cyn sesiwn y Pwyllgor yng Nghyfnod 2 ym mis Ionawr.

Derbynnir argymhelliad 16, yn amodol ar ganlyniad y trafodaethau sy'n cael eu cynnal ar hyn o bryd mewn perthynas ag argymhelliad 15. Fodd bynnag, dylai'r Pwyllgor nodi, er y bydd y Llywodraeth yn edrych ar ffyrdd o gynnwys cyfeiriad y contractwr ar gyfer pob contract ar y gofrestr, bydd cynnwys 'unrhyw wybodaeth arall ofynnol i hwyluso'r gwaith monitro a chasglu data sydd ei angen ar gyfer gosod targedau caffael' yn anodd ar hyn o bryd o ystyried nad ydym eto mewn sefyllfa i nodi'r hyn yr ydym yn bwriadu ei fesur ac felly pa ddata fydd ei angen i asesu cyfraniad caffael i economi Cymru. O ran argymhelliad 15, bydd rhagor o wybodaeth yn cael ei rhoi i'r Pwyllgor ar y pwynt hwn unwaith y gwneir penderfyniad yn dilyn trafodaethau gyda rhanddeiliaid allweddol. Dylid nodi hefyd mai diben y gofrestr contractau yw cynorthwyo tryloywder i gyflenwyr posibl ac ati. Bydd data yn cael eu casglu a'u hadrodd yn rhan o'r broses adrodd flynyddol.

O ran argymhelliad 17, sy'n cael ei dderbyn, byddaf yn sicrhau bod y Memorandwm Esboniadol diwygiedig yn cynnwys manylion pellach yr hyfforddiant caffael a rheoli contractau a fydd yn cael ei roi ar waith i gefnogi'r sector cyn gweithredu.

Mae argymhelliad 18 yn argymhell bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn egluro'r rolau a'r berthynas rhwng y Ganolfan Ragoriaeth Caffael ac is-grŵp caffael y Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a sut y mae'n bwriadu sicrhau y bydd y Ganolfan Ragoriaeth Caffael ac is-grŵp caffael y Cyngor yn chwarae rhan wrth yrru'r agenda gydweithredu a gwella yn ei blaen. Mae Canolfan Ragoriaeth Caffael wrthi'n cael ei sefydlu. Nid yw ei sefydlu wedi'i gynnwys yn y Bil hwn. Fodd bynnag, os caiff ei phasio, bydd y ddeddfwriaeth newydd hon angen ei herio a'i chefnogi. Bydd Is-grŵp Caffael y Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol yn rhan o'r swyddogaeth herio, ynghyd â threfniadau eraill ar gyfer goruchwyllo a fydd eu hangen i gwmpasu diwygio caffael yn fwy cyffredinol. Bydd y Ganolfan Ragoriaeth, ar ôl ei sefydlu, yn rhan o'r swyddogaeth gefnogi. Bydd y ddau yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd gan y bydd y swyddogaeth herio (Is-grŵp y Cyngor a'r swyddogaeth goruchwyllo) yn nodi lle mae angen mwy o gefnogaeth (gan gynnwys o'r Ganolfan Ragoriaeth) i alluogi cyrff cyhoeddus i gyflawni eu dyletswyddau caffael cymdeithasol gyfrifol o dan y Bil hwn. Drwy ddarparu'r eglurhad hwn, rwyf o'r farn bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi derbyn argymhelliad 18.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd yn derbyn argymhelliad 19. Gallaf gadarnhau y byddwn yn gweithio gyda chyrrff o fyd diwydiant a chynrychiolwyr sy'n ymwneud â chaffael adeiladu i ddatblygu canllawiau cadarn ar sut y dylid rhannu risgiau a rhwymedigaethau caffael cymdeithasol gyfrifol drwy'r gadwyn gyflenwi gyfan. Mae hyn eisoes yn ystyriaeth bwysig ar

gyfer datblygu cymalau gwaith cyhoeddus cymdeithasol a'r canllawiau statudol ategol. Er ei bod yn fwy heriol mynd i'r afael â materion sy'n ymwneud â diwylliant ac ymddygiad drwy ddeddfwriaeth, dylai'r gofynion adrodd helpu i nodi perfformiad da a pherfformiad gwael.

Rydym hefyd yn derbyn argymhelliad 20 a byddwn yn sicrhau bod gofynion adrodd sy'n deillio o'r ddeddfwriaeth hon yn cael eu symleiddio i sicrhau cydbwysedd priodol rhwng yr angen i gynyddu tryloywder, lleihau'r baich gweinyddol ar gyrff cyhoeddus, ac osgoi dyblygu gofynion adrodd o ddyletswyddau eraill.

Mae argymhelliad 21 yn gofyn inni ddarparu rhagor o fanylion ynghylch sut y bydd ymchwiliadau caffael yn rhyngweithio â'r pwerau sy'n bodoli eisoes gan Gomisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol. Dywedais yn ystod y ddadl bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn derbyn yr argymhelliad hwn. Soniais hefyd, fodd bynnag, y bydd angen inni aros nes bod yr is-ddeddfwriaeth sydd i'w gwneud o dan Ddeddf Caffael Llywodraeth y DU, a'r trefniadau goruchwyllo sydd i'w rhoi ar waith o dan y Ddeddf honno, yn cael eu cyflwyno cyn y gallwn ddisgrifio'n llawn sut y bydd y gwahanol gyrff hyn yn cydweithio yng Nghymru. Felly, er fy mod yn ymrwymo i ddarparu'r eglurhad hwn, mae'n annhebygol iawn y byddaf yn gallu gwneud hynny cyn i'r Senedd yn gorffen craffu ar y Bil hwn.

O ran argymhelliad 22, eglurais yn ystod y ddadl pam nad yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn gallu cefnogi'r argymhelliad hwn. Credwn na fyddai'n briodol ei gwneud yn ofynnol i Weinidogion Cymru ymgynghori â'r archwilydd cyffredinol cyn cyhoeddi pob ymchwiliad gan y dylai penderfyniadau o'r fath gael eu gwneud yn ôl disgrisiwn y Gweinidogion. Mae argymhelliad 22 hefyd yn gofyn inni nodi'r meini prawf a fyddai'n sbarduno ymchwiliad o dan adran 41. Mewn ymateb i'r pwynt hwn, byddaf yn rhoi enghreifftiau manylach i'r Pwyllgor o'r mathau o amgylchiadau a allai sbarduno ymchwiliad cyn sesiwn y Pwyllgor yng Nghyfnod 2.

Nodais hefyd yn ystod y ddadl pam y byddwn yn gwrthod argymhelliad 23. Eglurais ein barn y byddai darpariaethau ar wyneb y Bil yn manylu ar y meini prawf a fyddai'n sbarduno ymchwiliad o dan adran 41 yn rhy gyfyng. Fodd bynnag, byddaf yn sicrhau bod rhestr nad yw'n gynhwysfawr o feini prawf wedi'i chynnwys yn y canllawiau y byddwn yn eu cyhoeddi i gefnogi'r rhan hon o'r Bil, sef y lle priodol ar ei chyfer.

Derbynnir argymhelliad 24 mewn egwyddor yn unig ar y sail bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn fodlon ymrwymo i gyhoeddi'r canllawiau statudol ar ffurf drafft am chwe wythnos o ymgynghoriad o leiaf, ond nad ydym yn derbyn y dylai fod gofyniad penodol ar Weinidogion i ymgynghori â'r Senedd fel rhan o'r ymarfer hwnnw. Mae'r Llywodraeth o'r farn y bydd yr ymgynghoriad y bydd yn ei gynnal gyda rhanddeiliaid ar y canllawiau statudol drafft yn sicrhau eu bod yn addas i'r diben ac wedi'u hanelu at y gynulleidfa y cyfeirir ati.

O ran argymhelliad 25, cadarnheais yn ystod y ddadl bod yr argymhelliad hwn yn cael ei dderbyn, a bod gwaith eisoes ar y gweill i ddiweddarau'r Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol – er, fel nodais yn glir yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, mae cyfyngiad o ran yr hyn sy'n bosibl gydag amcangyfrif costau ariannol ac arbedion mewn ymarferion o'r fath. Fel sy'n arferol, byddwn wrth gwrs yn ymgysylltu â'n rhanddeiliaid allweddol wrth ymgymryd â'r gwaith pellach hwn.

Derbynnir argymhelliad 26 hefyd. Fel y dywedais yn ystod y ddadl, mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cytuno â barn y Pwyllgor ei bod yn bwysig inni ystyried a fydd angen amser cyfleuster ychwanegol i undebau llafur gyflawni eu rhwymedigaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r Bil. Soniais ein bod ar hyn o bryd yn cynnal prosiect yn ymgynghori â chyflogwyr a chynrychiolwyr undebau i ddeall yn well ffyrdd cyfredol o weithio ac i archwilio'r effaith bosibl y gallai'r gofynion ychwanegol hyn ei chael ar lefel leol. Fodd bynnag, rydym eisoes yn gwybod bod lefel yr amser cyfleuster sydd ar gael ar hyn o bryd yn amrywio'n fawr ar draws cyflogwyr, ac y bydd hyn yn parhau i fod yn wir ar ôl gweithredu. Yn ogystal â hyn, mae'r costau sy'n gysylltiedig â rhyddhau amser cyfleuster hefyd yn amrywio'n sylweddol ac yn aml yn

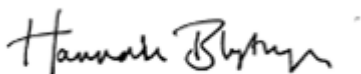
ddibynnol ar rôl sylweddol unigolion penodol. Mae modelu'r costau a'r manteision posibl ar draws y darn felly yn anodd iawn, ond byddwn yn darparu cymaint o fanylion ychwanegol ag y gallwn eu cael yn yr amser sydd ar gael cyn y bydd yn ofynnol inni osod yr Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol diwygiedig.

Mae argymhelliad 27 yn argymhell ein bod yn cyhoeddi'r "agenda, y cofnodion a'r allbynnau ar gyfer y Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol Cysgodol ers dechrau'r pandemig yn 2020. Er mwyn galluogi tryloywder, dylid cyhoeddi'r dogfennau hyn cyn diwedd 2022". Yn y ddatl dywedais fod y Llywodraeth yn gwrthod yr argymhelliad hwn, ond mewn ymateb i argymhelliad 28, yr ydym yn ei dderbyn mewn egwyddor, byddem yn darparu adroddiad cryno i'r Pwyllgor ar waith y Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol Cysgodol. Nid ydym yn derbyn argymhelliad 27 oherwydd nid ydym yn rhannu barn y Pwyllgor y byddai cyhoeddi'r dogfennau hyn "yn unol â'r hyn sy'n cael ei gynnig ar gyfer y Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol" ac y byddai'n "llywio gwaith y Fforwm [Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol]". Sefydlwyd y Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol Cysgodol yn benodol iawn fel fforwm i fynd i'r afael â heriau'r pandemig, ac o'r herwydd ni fyddai agendâu a chofnodion y cyfarfodydd eu hunain o unrhyw fudd ymarferol i'r rhai sy'n ymwneud â'r gwaith sydd bellach ar y gweill o ran braenaru'r tir ar gyfer y Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol. Fodd bynnag, bydd yr adroddiad y byddaf yn ei ddarparu i'r Pwyllgor yn dangos sut y bu dull gweithredu partneriaeth gymdeithasol yn effeithiol o ran sicrhau bod y Gweinidogion yn gallu ystyried ystod o wahanol safbwyntiau wrth wneud penderfyniadau ar faterion cymhleth yn ystod y pandemig.

Gobeithio y bydd yr wybodaeth yn y llythyr hwn o fudd i'r Pwyllgor. Ysgrifennaf atoch eto cyn inni ailgynnwyl ar gyfer ein hystyriaethau yng Nghyfnod 2 ym mis Ionawr i ddarparu rhagor o wybodaeth mewn perthynas ag argymhellion 3, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15, 22 a 28. Byddaf hefyd yn sicrhau y rhoddir gwybod i Glerc y Pwyllgor cyn gynted ag y bydd gwelliannau'r llywodraeth yng Nghyfnod 2 wedi'u cyhoeddi ar y dudalen we Dogfennau a Osodwyd.

Er gwybodaeth, mae copïau ynghlwm o'r llythyrau yr wyf wedi'u hanfon at gadeiryddion y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad a'r Pwyllgor Cyllid, ac rwy'n anfon copi o'r llythyr hwn at gadeiryddion y ddau Bwyllgor hynny hefyd.

Yn gywir,



Hannah Blythyn AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Partnership



Peredur Owen Griffiths AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
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15 Rhagfyr 2022

Annwyl Peredur,

Bil Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus (Cymru)

Yn ystod y ddadl Egwyddorion Cyffredinol ar Fil Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus (Cymru) ar 29 Tachwedd 2022, dywedais y byddwn yn ysgrifennu atoch i gadarnhau mewn mwy o fanylder ymatebion Llywodraeth Cymru i argymhellion eich Pwyllgor.

Mae argymhelliad 1 yn gofyn inni ddiweddarau'r Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol er mwyn rhoi costau enghreifftiol sy'n seiliedig ar y data cyfredol/y rhagolwg o ran chwyddiant. Rwy'n cadarnhau ein bod yn derbyn yr argymhelliad hwn ac y byddwn yn diweddarau'r dadansoddiad i adlewyrchu chwyddiant a chytundebau cyflog perthnasol ers i'r Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol gael ei lunio yn wreiddiol.

Mae argymhelliad 2 wedi ei dderbyn – ond wedi'i dderbyn dim ond mewn egwyddor – gan ei fod yn ymwneud â materion sy'n ehangach na'r Bil hwn yr wyf yn gyfrifol amdano fel Gweinidog arweiniol. O ystyried cwmpas eang yr argymhelliad, mae wedi'i rannu â chydweithwyr yn y Cabinet, a gofynnwyd i Drysorlys Cymru ystyried beth fyddai'r ffordd orau o gyflwyno gwybodaeth ariannol atodol sy'n cynnwys chwyddiant prisiau cyffredinol mewn Memoranda Esboniadol yn y dyfodol. Bydd y Pwyllgor yn cael ymateb llawn ar y mater hwn maes o law.

Mae argymhelliad 3 wedi'i wrthod. Fel y soniais yn ystod y ddadl, mae cyfyngiad ar yr hyn y mae modd ei gyflawni o ran amcangyfrif costau a manteision posibl newidiadau deddfwriaethol o'r math hwn. Ni allwn nodi i ba raddau y mae awdurdodau contractio eisoes yn ymgymryd â chaffael cymdeithasol gyfrifol, felly mae prisiau yn yr Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol yn seiliedig ar ein hasesiad o'r gwaith a fyddai ei angen i adolygu dogfennau a phrosesau presennol ac i wneud y newidiadau angenrheidiol. Er hynny, ymrwymais hefyd yn ystod y ddadl i ddarparu diweddiariad ar gyfer yr Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol, sydd mor drylwyr â phosibl yn yr amser a ganiateir, rhwng nawr a'r dyddiad ailosod cyn Cyfnod 3. Yn

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

rhan o'r gwaith hwnnw byddwn yn edrych a oes unrhyw ffordd o ddarparu mwy o fanylder mewn perthynas â Rhan 3 o'r Bil.

Mae argymhelliad 4 yn gofyn i Lywodraeth Cymru weithio gyda Llywodraeth yr Alban i weld a ddysgwyd unrhyw wersi ynghylch yr effaith o ran cost a chyflwyno adroddiad i'r Pwyllgor ar y canfyddiadau hynny. Derbyniais yr argymhelliad hwn ar y sail ein bod ni eisoes wedi ymgysylltu â Llywodraeth yr Alban i drafod y costau a'r amserlenni sy'n gysylltiedig â'i deddfwriaeth gaffael, a gallaf gadarnhau bod yr wybodaeth hon wedi'i defnyddio i ddatblygu'r prisiau a gyflwynwyd yn yr Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol.

Mae argymhelliad 5, sy'n cael ei dderbyn, yn argymhell ein bod yn "gwneud rhagor o waith i ddadansoddi ac amcangyfrif costau a manteision y Bil cyfan unwaith y bydd y data perthnasol ar gael, a dylid cynnwys yr wybodaeth hon yn yr adolygiad a gaiff ei lunio ar ôl gweithredu'r Bil". Gallaf gadarnhau y bydd y costau a'r manteision yn cael eu hystyried, cyn belled ag y bo modd, yn rhan o'n gwaith o adolygu ar ôl i'r Bil gael ei weithredu.

O ran argymhelliad 6, yr ydym hefyd yn ei dderbyn, mae'n bwysig fy mod yn glir gyda'r Pwyllgor: rydym yn cytuno bod rhaid i unrhyw ofynion ychwanegol a roddir ar fusnesau fod yn gymesur (mae'r dyletswyddau caffael wedi cael eu dylunio'n fwriadol mewn ffordd sy'n darparu iddynt gael eu cymhwyso'n gymesur), ond bydd rhaid talu am y gofynion diwydrwydd dyladwy mewn perthynas â deilliannau cymdeithasol gyfrifol, felly bydd angen eu ffactorio i gostau mewn ceisiadau. Yn anochel, mae hyn yn golygu y bydd rhaid trosglwyddo rhywfaint o gostau cynyddol i'r cwsmeriaid.

Derbynnir argymhelliad 7 mewn egwyddor. Nid y ddeddfwriaeth hon fydd yr unig ddylanwad achosol ar nifer y rhai sy'n manteisio ar y cyflog byw gwirioneddol dros amser. O'r herwydd bydd yn amhosibl gwahaniaethu rhwng effaith y Bil a'r ffactorau niferus eraill sydd ar waith. Fodd bynnag, bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymgymryd ag ymarfer ar wahân i asesu nifer y rhai sy'n manteisio ar y cyflog byw gwirioneddol ochr yn ochr â'n gwaith adolygu ôl-weithredu.

Mae argymhelliad 8 yn gofyn inni ddarparu cymorth yn benodol i fusnesau bach a chanolig i'w galluogi i gymryd rhan mewn contractau. Rwy'n derbyn yr argymhelliad hwn ac yn cadarnhau bod hyn yn rhywbeth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru eisoes wedi ymrwymo iddo.

Yn y ddadl dywedais na fyddai Llywodraeth Cymru yn gallu derbyn argymhelliad 9 am nad oes modd dadansoddi effaith y ddyletswydd rheoli contractau adeiladu ar fusnesau bach a chanolig yn yr amser sydd ar gael. Nid ydym eto wedi datblygu manylion yr hyn fydd yn ofynnol gan y dyletswyddau rheoli contractau adeiladu, felly ni allwn ddadansoddi'r effaith bosibl i raddau pellach nag ydym eisoes wedi'i wneud – mae'r manylion hynny wedi'u cynnwys yn yr Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol.

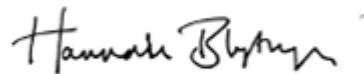
O ran argymhelliad 10, byddwn yn cyhoeddi crynodeb o'r ymgynghoriad ar estyn y ddyletswydd llesiant i gyrff cyhoeddus datganoledig newydd yn fuan. Bydd Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol hefyd yn cael ei lunio mewn perthynas ag unrhyw reoliadau a allai fod yn ofynnol o ganlyniad. O ran cyllid Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, deallaf fod y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol wrthi'n ystyried yr amcan statudol gan swyddfa'r Comisiynydd yn rhan o drafodaethau sy'n mynd rhagddynt ynghylch y gyllideb. Os penderfynir bod angen cyllid ychwanegol ar y Comisiynydd i gefnogi'r gyrff ychwanegol arfaethedig sy'n ddarostyngedig i'r ddyletswydd llesiant, byddwn yn sicrhau bod yr wybodaeth hon yn cael ei chyfleu i'r Pwyllgor.

I gloi, rwy'n cadarnhau bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn derbyn argymhelliad 11 ac y bydd yn cynnwys asesiad canol tymor yn amlinellu costau ariannol yn rhan o'r gwaith gwerthuso ôl-weithredu.

Gobeithio y bydd yr wybodaeth yn y llythyr hwn o ddefnydd i'r Pwyllgor.

Er gwybodaeth, mae copïau ynghlwm o'r llythyrau yr wyf wedi'u hanfon at gadeiryddion y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad, ac rwy'n anfon copi o'r llythyr hwn at gadeiryddion y Pwyllgorau hynny hefyd.

Yn gywir,



Hannah Blythyn AS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Partnership



Huw Irranca-Davies AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad
Senedd Cymru
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Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

15 Rhagfyr 2022

Annwyl Huw,

Bil Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus (Cymru)

Yn ystod y ddadl Egwyddorion Cyffredinol ar y Bil Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus (Cymru) ar 29 Tachwedd 2022, dywedais y byddwn yn ysgrifennu atoch i gadarnhau mewn mwy o fanylder ymatebion Llywodraeth Cymru i argymhellion eich Pwyllgor.

Cadarnheais yn y ddadl na fyddai Llywodraeth Cymru yn derbyn argymhelliad 1 oherwydd nad ydym yn ei hystyried yn briodol cynnwys yn adran dehongli y Bil ddiffiniad a nodir yn rhywle arall dim ond mewn canllawiau statudol. Mae'r canllawiau y cyfeirir atynt wedi'u cyhoeddi o dan bŵer (yn hytrach na dyletswydd) ar wahân mewn Deddf arall ac mae iddynt ddiben penodol nad yw o bosibl yn cyd-fynd â'r dyletswyddau o dan y Bil hwn. Yn wir, mae'n bosibl y gallai'r canllawiau hynny newid yn y dyfodol neu gallent, o bosibl, gael eu tynnu'n ôl gan un o Lywodraethau'r dyfodol. Fel y dywedais yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, mae'r Bil yn darparu i Weinidogion Cymru gyhoeddi canllawiau i gyrff cyhoeddus ar weithredu'r Ddyletswydd Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a dyna'r ffordd briodol o ddelio â materion fel hyn.

Mae argymhelliad 2 wedi'i dderbyn. Byddwn yn datblygu ac yn cyhoeddi cyngor i gynorthwyo unigolion a sefydliadau i wella eu dealltwriaeth o waith teg, a'u hymwybyddiaeth o fanteision gwaith teg, ac enghreifftiau o gamau y gall sefydliadau eu cymryd i hybu gwaith teg. Bydd y cyngor hwn o ddiddordeb penodol i'r sefydliadau hynny sy'n ddarostyngedig i ddarpariaethau Bil Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus (Cymru) a'r undebau llafur sy'n cynrychioli gweithwyr yn y sefydliadau hynny. Fodd bynnag, rydym hefyd yn bwriadu gwneud y cyngor o ddiddordeb ehangach i fusnesau, cyflogwyr ac undebau llafur yn fwy cyffredinol.

Nodais fy rhesymau dros wrthod argymhelliad 3 yn ystod y ddadl. Ni fyddwn yn cymhwyso'r weithdrefn negyddol i'r pŵer i gyhoeddi'r cod allanoli gwasanaethau cyhoeddus a'r gweithlu oherwydd nad yw'r Cod yn ddeddfwriaethol, felly ni fyddai'n briodol iddo gael ei wneud yn ddarostyngedig i'r weithdrefn negyddol fel pe bai ganddo rym deddfwriaethol. Bydd y Cod

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Tudalen y pecyn 18
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fodd bynnag yn ddarostyngedig i ymgynghoriad ehangach, a fydd yn helpu i sicrhau ei fod yn targedu'r gynulleidfa y mae'n cyfeirio ati.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn derbyn argymhellion 4 a 5 a bydd yn cyflwyno gwelliannau yng Nghyfnod 2 i ychwanegu at y Bil ddyletswydd benodol i ymgynghori mewn perthynas â'r Cod i'w gwneud o dan adran 32 a'r canllawiau i'w gwneud o dan adran 31.

Ni dderbynnir argymhelliad 6 am y rhesymau a nodais yn y Cyfarfod Llawn, sef y byddwn yn datblygu'r Cod mewn partneriaeth gymdeithasol ac mewn ymgynghoriad â rhanddeiliaid. Er mwyn gwneud hyn bydd angen inni ymgysylltu â'r grwpiau hyn o'r dechrau. Mae'r dull gweithredu hwn yn golygu na fyddwn mewn sefyllfa i gyhoeddi fersiwn ddrafft o'r Cod cyn i Gyfnod 3 fynd rhagddo ym mis Mawrth.

Dywedais yn ystod y ddadl y byddwn yn darparu rhagor o fanylion ynghylch pam mae argymhellion 7 ac 8 wedi'u gwrthod. Mae'r argymhellion hyn yn gofyn inni ddiwygio'r Bil fel bod y rheoliadau sydd i'w gwneud o dan adran 38(3)(a) a 38(3)(b) yn ddarostyngedig i'r weithdrefn gadarnhaol, yn hytrach nag i'r weithdrefn negyddol. Mae'r Pwyllgor yn ymwybodol bod y Gweinidogion, wrth bennu pa weithdrefn sydd fwyaf priodol, yn cymhwyso'r egwyddorion a nodir yng [Nghanllawiau Llywodraeth Cymru ar is-ddeddfwriaeth: gweithdrefn gadarnhaol ddrafft neu negyddol y cynulliad](#).

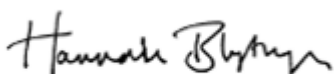
Bydd unrhyw reoliadau a wnawn o dan 38(3)(a) a 38(3)(b) at ddiben darparu manylion unrhyw faterion pellach (ar ben y rhai sydd eisoes wedi'u nodi yn adran 38(1) a (2)) y mae'n rhaid i strategaethau caffael awdurdodau contractio eu cynnwys. Yn ei hanfod, cytundeb i baratoi at y dyfodol yw hwn i sicrhau bod unrhyw newidiadau mewn arferion caffael – a fydd o bosibl yn gorfod cael eu gwneud oherwydd newidiadau statudol ehangach nad oes gan Lywodraeth Cymru ddisgresiwn drostynt – yn gallu cael eu cymhwyso pe byddai angen. Rydym wedi ein bodloni bod y weithdrefn negyddol yn darparu digon o gyfle i graffu'n ddemocrataidd ar unrhyw reoliadau a wneir wrth arfer y pŵer hwn.

I gloi, mewn perthynas ag argymhelliad 9, hoffwn ymddiheuro eto i'r Pwyllgor: cafodd y cyfeiriad at 'gonfensiwn' yn fy llythyr ar 15 Hydref ei gynnwys mewn camgymeriad ac rwy'n cydnabod nad oes y fath gonfensiwn yn bodoli.

Gobeithio y bydd yr wybodaeth yn y llythyr hwn yn ddefnyddiol i'r Pwyllgor. Byddaf hefyd yn gwneud yn siŵr y rhoddir gwybod i Glerc y Pwyllgor cyn gynted ag y bydd gwelliannau'r llywodraeth yng Nghyfnod 2 wedi'u cyhoeddi ar y dudalen we Dogfennau a Osodwyd.

Er gwybodaeth, mae copïau ynghlwm o'r llythyrau yr wyf wedi'u hanfon at gadeiryddion y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Pwyllgor Cyllid, ac rwy'n anfon copi o'r llythyr hwn at gadeiryddion y ddau Bwyllgor hynny hefyd.

Yn gywir,



Hannah Blythyn AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Partnership

Tudalen y pecyn 19

Children, Young People
and Education Committee

Julie Morgan AS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol

16 Rhagfyr 2022

Y gweithlu gofal plant

Annwyl Julie,

Yn ystod trafodaeth ddiweddar yn y Pwyllgor ar y flaenraglen waith, cytunwyd i ofyn am ragor o wybodaeth am y gweithlu gofal plant. Rydym yn ymwybodol, gyda Chynnig Gofal Plant presennol Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Cytundeb Cydweithio i ehangu gofal plant am ddim i bawb mewn dwy flynedd, gan gynnwys ffocws ar ddarparu a chryfhau'r ddarpariaeth gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg, mai un elfen allweddol i gyflawni'r ymrwymiadau hyn fydd cael nifer digonol o weithwyr gofal plant proffesiynol hyfforddedig ledled Cymru.

Wrth ymateb i adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ar ofal plant "[Gwarchod y Dyfodol](#)" ac yn benodol eu hargymhelliad ynghylch diffyg amrywiaeth ethnig yn y sector, gwnaeth y Llywodraeth [ddatgan](#) byddai adolygiad o'r cynllun 10 mlynedd ar gyfer gweithlu'r gofal plant, gwaith chwarae a blynyddoedd cynnar. A fyddech cystal â rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf inni am yr adolygiad hwn, pryd rydych chi'n disgwyl iddo gael ei gwblhau, ac ymrwymo i rannu copi o'r adolygiad â'r Pwyllgor pan fydd wedi'i gwblhau?

Gan fod gennym feysydd diddordeb cyffredin, rwy'n anfon copi o'r llythyr hwn at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol.

Byddem yn gwerthfawrogi ymateb erbyn dydd Mercher 18 Ionawr.

Yn gywir



Jayne Bryant AS

Cadeirydd

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Mark Drakeford AS
Y Prif Weinidog

19 Rhagfyr 2022

Annwyl Brif Weinidog

Craffu ar oblygiadau ariannol Biliau

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 7 Rhagfyr, a anfonwyd gennych mewn ymateb i gais y Pwyllgor Cyllid fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn dychwelyd i'r arfer o ddarparu ymatebion ysgrifenedig i adroddiadau Cyfnod 1 gan bwyllgorau cyn i'r ddadl Cyfnod 1 gael ei chynnal.

Mae'n siomedig nad ydych yn gallu rhoi ymrwymiad mewn perthynas â'r cais rhesymol hwn. Rydych yn dweud yn eich llythyr: "Yn ystod dadl Cyfnod 1 y mae Gweinidogion yn rhoi esboniad o ymateb y Llywodraeth i'r argymhellion ym mhob adroddiad Pwyllgor". Fodd bynnag, rydym o'r farn na ddylid ystyried y dull hwn yn arfer cyffredin, gan nad yw bob amser yn bosibl i Weinidogion ddarparu ymateb llawn a thrylwyr i bob argymhelliad, o ystyried yr amser cyfyngedig sydd ar gael yn ystod y ddadl ei hun. Fel y nodais yn fy llythyr cychwynnol, yr arfer safonol yw bod y cynnig ynghylch y Penderfyniad Ariannol yn cael ei drafod yn syth ar ôl cytuno ar y cynnig Cyfnod 1. Felly, ychydig iawn o amser sydd gan y Senedd i ystyried ymateb y Llywodraeth cyn gorfod gwneud penderfyniad ynghylch a ddylid ymrwymo adnoddau.

Rydych hefyd yn nodi'r posibilrwydd y bydd amgylchiadau pan fo angen mwy o amser i ystyried rhai argymhellion neu pan nad yw'r manylion sydd eu hangen i ddarparu ymateb cyflawn ar gael cyn cynnal dadl Cyfnod 1. O ystyried bod yr amserlenni ar gyfer Biliau'r Llywodraeth yn cael eu cynnig gan Lywodraeth Cymru, gyda'r Pwyllgor Busnes yn cytuno ar y dyddiadau cau ar gyfer Cyfnodau 1 a 2, dylid ystyried rhoi'r gorau i'r arfer o bleidleisio ar y cynnig ynghylch y Penderfyniad Ariannol ar yr un diwrnod â'r ddadl Cyfnod 1. Gwnaed penderfyniad tebyg yn y Pedwerydd Cynulliad, gan wrthdroi'r sefyllfa ddiodyn er mwyn gohirio'r bleidlais ar y cynnig Cyfnod 4 hyd nes bod wythnos wedi mynd heibio ar ôl i'r trafodion Cyfnod 3 ddod i ben, a hynny er mwyn rhoi cyfle i'r Aelodau drafod



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fersiwn derfynol o'r Bil cyn gofyn i'r Senedd ei chymeradwyo. Rydym o'r farn y dylai'r un egwyddor fod yn berthnasol i'r cynnig ynghylch y Penderfyniad Ariannol. Byddai hyn yn rhoi amser i'r Aelodau fyfyrion ar ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i adroddiad y Pwyllgor Cyllid. Rydym o'r farn bod hyn yn arbennig o bwysig o ystyried nad oes gan y Senedd unrhyw gyfleoedd pellach i ystyried goblygiadau ariannol Biliau yn ffurfiol ar ôl i'r cynnig gael ei gytuno.

Yn olaf, rydych yn nodi y gallai deddfwriaeth "fod yn fath newydd o ddeddfwriaeth", ac y gallai fod "sefyllfaoedd lle mae sawl ffactor amrywiol yn golygu nad oes modd cyfrifo costau manwl nes bod y ddarpariaeth yn cael ei phrofi a'i hasesu". Mae'r Pwyllgor yn cydnabod yr heriau hyn. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n dderbyniol i Lywodraeth Cymru beidio â cheisio cyfrifo costau posibl deddfwriaeth. Mae'r Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol yn arf allweddol o ran asesu'n feirniadol yr ystod o ddulliau a archwiliwyd mewn perthynas â datblygu cynnig deddfwriaethol, ac o ran darparu dull o wneud penderfyniadau polisi sy'n seiliedig ar dystiolaeth. Rydym yn cydnabod y ffaith na fydd yn bosibl darparu "costau manwl" bob amser. Fodd bynnag, mae'n hollbwysig bod Asesiadau Effaith Rheoleiddiol yn cynnwys yr amcangyfrif gorau posibl ar gyfer costau a buddion, a hynny er mwyn ein galluogi i graffu'n llawn ar oblygiadau ariannol cyffredinol Bil – pwynt y mae'r Pwyllgor wedi'i wneud droeon.

Rydym yn gresynu'r ffaith ei bod yn ymddangos bod yr Asesiadau Effaith Rheoleiddiol sydd wedi cael eu cyhoeddi gyda'r Biliau a gyflwynwyd hyd yma yn y Senedd hon yn rhyw fath o "sgil-gynnyrch" yn y broses o wneud penderfyniadau, yn hytrach na'r offeryn sy'n llywio'r broses honno. Mae'r Bil diweddaraf a drafodwyd gennym, sef y Bil Amaeth (Cymru), yn Fil fframwaith, lle mae cyfran sylweddol o'r costau yn ymwneud â'r cynllun Rheoli Tir yn Gynaliadwy – cynllun na fydd yn cael ei gwblhau tan y flwyddyn nesaf. Yn y sefyllfaoedd hyn, gallai'r Senedd gytuno yn y pen draw ar Benderfyniad Ariannol ar gyfer Bil, yn seiliedig ar y wybodaeth sydd wedi'i chynnwys yn yr Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol a gyhoeddwyd adeg ei gyflwyno, ond a allai gynyddu'n sylweddol yn dilyn hynny. Mae'r diffyg eglurder hwn yn gwneud ein rôl fel Pwyllgor Cyllid yn un heriol iawn, ac yn amharu'n sylweddol ar ein gallu i wneud penderfyniad ynghylch a yw costau'n rhesymol ai peidio.

Pe bai Llywodraeth Cymru yn parhau i ddarparu Asesiadau Effaith Rheoleiddiol sy'n cynnwys gwybodaeth anghyflawn neu annigonol, ni fyddai gan y Pwyllgor lawer o ddewis ond gorfodi Gweinidogion i ailymddangos gerbron y Pwyllgor unwaith y byddai'r wybodaeth y gofynnwyd amdani ar gael, a hynny er mwyn sicrhau bod y wybodaeth ariannol a ddarperir gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn destun gwaith craffu cadarn.

Fel y gwyddoch, mae nifer o bwyllgorau'r Senedd wedi codi pryderon tebyg ynghylch prydlondeb ymatebion Llywodraeth Cymru cyn cynnal dadleuon Cyfnod 1. Mae hyn yn creu darlun anffodus, ac yn codi cwestiynau ynghylch



ysbryd y gwaith ymgysylltu y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud â'r Senedd mewn perthynas â materion deddfwriaethol. Felly, rwyf yn gofyn i chi fyfyrion ar y materion uchod ac i ailystyried safbwynt Llywodraeth Cymru ynghylch darparu ymatebion ysgrifenedig i adroddiadau'r Pwyllgor Cyllid cyn y cynhelir dadleuon Cyfnod 1, ac i ystyried cyflwyno'r cynnig ynghylch y Penderfyniad Ariannol o leiaf wythnos ar ôl i ddarpariaethau Cyfnod 1 gael eu cytuno. O ystyried y pwysau ar gyllidebau cyhoeddus, mae'n bwysicach fyth bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn darparu cymaint o eglurder a sicrwydd â phosibl cyn gofyn i Aelodau awdurdodi gwariant sy'n gysylltiedig â Biliau.

Gan fod y materion hyn yn berthnasol i gylchoedd gwaith holl bwyllgorau'r Senedd, mae copi o'r llythyr hwn wedi'i anfon at Gadeiryddion y pwyllgorau hynny.

Yn gywir



Peredur Owen Griffiths AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.





Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Peredur Owen Griffiths AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid

7 Rhagfyr 2022

Annwyl Peredur,

Craffu ar oblygiadau ariannol Biliau

Rwy'n ysgrifennu i ymateb i'ch llythyr ar 16 Tachwedd 2022 ynglŷn â chraffu ar oblygiadau ariannol Biliau'r Llywodraeth.

Mae eich llythyr yn tynnu sylw at y pryder bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi symud i ffwrdd o'r arfer yn y Bumed Senedd o ddarparu ymateb ysgrifenedig i adroddiadau Cyfnod 1 cyn dadl yr Egwyddorion Cyffredinol a Phenderfyniad Ariannol.

Yn ystod dadl Cyfnod 1 y mae Gweinidogion yn rhoi esboniad o ymateb y Llywodraeth i'r argymhellion ym mhob adroddiad Pwyllgor ac yn y rhan fwyaf o amgylchiadau, ond nid pob un, maent wedi rhoi mwy o fanylion drwy lythyr ffurfiol.

Er y bu achlysuron yn ystod y Bumed Senedd pan gyhoeddwyd ymatebion y Llywodraeth cyn neu ar ddyddiad dadl yr Egwyddorion Cyffredinol, nid oedd hyn yn rhywbeth arferol ar gyfer pob Bil. Mewn gwirionedd, cyhoeddwyd dros hanner yr ymatebion yn ysgrifenedig ar ôl y ddadl neu fe'u darparwyd ar lafar yn ystod y ddadl.

Mae Gweinidogion yn ymdrechu i ymateb i'r Pwyllgorau cyn gynted ag y bo'n rhesymol bosibl ond nid yw bob amser yn ymarferol i Weinidogion Cymru wneud hyn cyn dadl Cyfnod 1 ar gyfer pob Bil, felly yn ymarferol mae'n bosibl y darperir yr ymatebion ysgrifenedig hyn ar ôl i'r ddadl ddigwydd.

Efallai y bydd amgylchiadau pan fo angen mwy o amser i ystyried goblygiadau'r argymhellion neu pan nad yw'r manylion sydd eu hangen i ddarparu ymateb cyflawn ar gael cyn dadl Cyfnod 1. Yn ogystal, gall y ddeddfwriaeth fod yn fath newydd o ddeddfwriaeth ac er ein bod yn anelu at ddarparu'r amcangyfrifon gorau o'r costau tebygol, mae sefyllfa oedd

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Ile mae sawl ffactor amrywiol yn golygu nad oes modd cyfrifo costau manwl nes bod y ddarpariaeth yn cael ei phrofi a'i hasesu. Fodd bynnag, byddwn yn parhau i roi gwybod i'r Pwyllgor Cyllid am yr wybodaeth ariannol sy'n ymwneud â phob Bil wrth iddynt fynd drwy wahanol gamau'r broses graffu yn y Senedd.

Yn ogystal, bydd Gweinidogion Cymru yn parhau â'r arfer a sefydlwyd yn ystod y Bumed Senedd o ysgrifennu at y Pwyllgorau pwnc a'r Pwyllgor Cyllid cyn gweithrediadau Cyfnod 3 o Fil os gwnaed newidiadau i'r Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol ar ôl Cyfnod 2.

Rwyf wedi anfon copi o'ch llythyr ynghyd â'r ateb hwn at bob un o Weinidogion Cymru. Anfonir yr ateb hwn hefyd i'r Pwyllgor Busnes a Chadeiryddion y Pwyllgorau Polisi.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD

Jenny Rathbone AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a
Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

21 Rhagfyr 2022

Annwyl Jenny,

Ail gyfarfod Cynulliad Partneriaeth Seneddol y DU a'r UE

Mae'r Cytundeb Masnach a Chydweithredu rhwng y DU a'r UE yn darparu ar gyfer sefydlu Cynulliad Partneriaeth Seneddol y DU a'r UE fel rhan o'i strwythurau llywodraethu. Mae'r Cynulliad Partneriaeth Seneddol yn chwarae rhan bwysig o ran goruchwylio gweithrediad y Cytundeb Masnach a Chydweithredu ac unrhyw gytundebau rhwng y DU a'r UE yn y dyfodol.

Dyma'r unig gorff a all ddwyn y Cyngor Partneriaeth i gyfrif, sef y corff sydd â chyfrifoldeb cyffredinol am y Cytundeb Masnach a Chydweithredu. Mae'n cynnwys cynrychiolwyr y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd a Gweinidogion Llywodraeth y DU.

Buom yn cynrychioli'r Senedd yn ail gyfarfod Cynulliad Partneriaeth Seneddol y DU a'r UE ar 7-8 Tachwedd. Yn ystod y cyfarfod hwn, trafodwyd hawliau dinasyddion a bu modd inni amlygu'r gwaith pwysig y mae eich Pwyllgor wedi'i wneud ar y mater hwn. Roeddem felly am dynnu eich sylw at ein [hadroddiad byr](#) ar ganlyniad y trafodaethau ac yn arbennig y casgliadau ynghylch hawliau dinasyddion.

Gwnaeth ein hadroddiad nifer o argymhellion hefyd ar sut y gallai'r Senedd fanteisio i'r eithaf ar y cyfleoedd ymgysylltu a ddaw yn sgil y Cynulliad Partneriaeth Seneddol. Maent yn cynnwys:

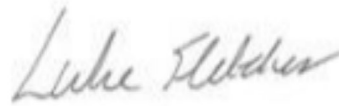
- darparu adroddiadau ar faterion o ddiddordeb i bwyllgorau eraill y Senedd megis y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol; a
- gweithio gyda phwyllgorau'r Senedd i ddatblygu cysylltiadau anffurfiol ag aelodau o ddirprwyaethau'r DU a'r UE i'r Cynulliad Partneriaeth Seneddol.

Rydym yn gobeithio bwrw ymlaen â'r gwaith hwn yn y flwyddyn newydd cyn cyfarfod nesaf y Cynulliad Partneriaeth Seneddol ym mis Mai 2023, a gobeithiwn y bydd yr adroddiad hwn o ddiddordeb i'ch Pwyllgor yn y cyfamser.

Yn gywir,



Huw Irranca-Davies
Cadeirydd
Y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r
Cyfansoddiad



Luke Fletcher
Aelod
Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig



06 January 2023

Ms Jenny Rathbone MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Dear Jenny,

Equality and Social Justice Committee evidence session: follow-up questions

Thank you very much for your invitation to appear before the committee and give evidence on the two issues of the experience of women offenders and the experience of children and young people in court with speech and language difficulties.

At the meeting, I undertook to write to the committee with some further details on some of the questions. I set out the further information below. I hope the committee finds it useful as it continues its inquiries.

Women offenders

Impacts of the pre-sentence report (PSR) pilots

At the session, I emphasised that pre-sentence reports were absolutely key in helping magistrates identify complex needs of women offenders. Magistrates are highly reliant on the suggestions of probation made through the pre-sentence reports, so the lack of information specific to the needs of female offenders can limit the options available to sentencers.

As the pilots began during an exceptional time for probation, with the reunification of the service and in the context of the pandemic, it is too early to assess impact. However, we consider that anything which has the potential to improve early identification and treatment of complex needs should be welcomed.

The pilots' impact should be regularly monitored and fed back to stakeholders, including magistrates, to ensure that they can be confident that the alternative delivery model works for female offenders as a distinct priority group.

The resourcing of PSR pilots

You asked me if I had evidence of the resourcing of these pilots. We are not aware of the funding decisions which govern these pilots. Decisions governing investment in individual pilots is a matter for the Ministry of Justice.

We know that confidence in the long-term viability and availability of services is a key element of the confidence sentencers have in alternatives to custody as a whole. It is important, therefore, that investment to fulfil the aims of the Female Offending Blueprint as a whole must be on a sustainable basis.

Observed regional disparities in short sentences

The committee asked me about observed regional disparities in short sentences across Wales. It is difficult to explain these disparities in the absence of robust and detailed data. Statistics on offender outcomes are not broken down very clearly. In their current form, they obscure many variables that might reveal the factors which make custody unavoidable. That is one of the reasons why the Magistrates' Association calls for greater open data, as a key element of open justice, so that it is possible to learn from the data and to better understand disparities.

As it stands, the data does not currently make clear what offenders are sentenced for, whether the sentence is their first sentence or if they have been sentenced on breach, and the individual's offending history. It also does not make clear how many custodial sentences are due to an offender not agreeing to be subject to a community order instead.

Magistrates must sentence according to guidelines published by the Sentencing Council. These set out, among other things:

- The starting points for sentencing of a particular offence
- The factors the bench should consider makes the offence more harmful
- Factors that make the impact of the offence worse (aggravating factors), and those which can be seen to mitigate it (mitigating factors).

The guidelines point magistrates to the starting point when custody is unavoidable or when the case is serious enough, but they also strongly emphasise that the bench must consider the impact of sentencing on women, as they are aware that the impact on women of a custodial sentence is usually greater. The impact on dependants must be considered as a mitigating factor when considering whether an offender should be sentenced to custody.

While the content of the PSR is helpful to the bench in understanding alternatives to custody, whether these recommendations are made hinges on the availability of services (for example, whether there is a women's centre, and the viability of curfew).

Where there are no viable options available in the community and the threshold for custody is reached, the bench must sentence a female offender to custody. This, as I told the committee, shows the importance of robust community alternatives, such as residential women centres, in reducing custodial sentences which members tell us they feel adds a real additional option and alternative to prison.

As mentioned, the evidence of regional variances the committee outlined can only be understood fully when sufficient data is available. We would support the publication of statistics displaying this to allow for greater transparency.

Magistrates' appraisals and training

Finally, you asked me about magistrates' appraisals. Magistrates are appraised every four years. Magistrates sitting in youth court are appraised every two years.

Magistrates receive much training, learning and development on the needs of female offenders. At the MA, we regularly hold sessions at conferences, post resources online on our training platforms and via our member magazine, hold webinars for members, and offer talks to our local branches on the unique needs of female offenders.

Training is focused on raising awareness of the underlying and complex needs of women that we know can make them more vulnerable in custody. Training in this area is pivotal as it means that – even in the absence of a detailed PSR – magistrates are aware of these needs and can ask questions in court to ensure they have all the relevant information.

Children and young people with speech and language difficulties

The available support in court for children with speech and language difficulties

Support for children with speech and language difficulties in court tends to vary by area. Members tell me that some Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) have speech and language experts on the team, but ultimately each YOT is independent, and they all work differently.

In the youth court, the presiding justice on a bench of magistrates has an obligation to lead the process in a way that can be fully understood by a child or young person, and to ensure they have suitable support. The presiding justice should ensure all court users use suitable language to facilitate understanding. As a matter of good practice, the youth offending service should identify any issues and tell the bench; and if there are, suitable support needs should be sought as applicable.

Information on whether children and young people in court have speech and language difficulties is not available in all cases, but members tell me that the youth offending service (YOS) do try to prepare the child before court starts.

Promoting trauma-informed practice

Finally, the committee asked me about the one innovation that would best help foster a trauma-informed approach in the youth courts. In my answer to this question, I emphasised training and development for magistrates. Magistrates already undergo training specifically for sitting in youth court before they begin sitting in youth court and undertake consolidation training around a year after they start sitting. Ad hoc learning and development is also offered by the Magistrates' Association (both nationally and locally). However, our members often express a desire for more continuing training and development.

Youth panels of magistrates have regular meetings to which their local youth offending teams are routinely invited. Ensuring these teams make regular presentations to panels about the level of observed need in relation to speech and language difficulties in children and young people in the youth court would be a worthwhile area of best practice. This would alert the youth panel to trends in their local area, and would provide a training opportunity for magistrates on how best to accommodate a child before them with these difficulties.

On behalf of the Magistrates' Association, thank you once again for allowing me to speak about these issues before the committee. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we may assist with anything further.

With all best wishes,



Tom Franklin
Chief executive
Magistrates' Association

Eitem 4

Yn rhinwedd paragraff(au) vii o Reol Sefydlog 17.42

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

Eitem 5

Yn rhinwedd paragraff(au) vii o Reol Sefydlog 17.42

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

Eitem 7

Yn rhinwedd paragraff(au) vii o Reol Sefydlog 17.42

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

Jane Hutt AS
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Llywodraeth Cymru

1 Tachwedd 2022

Annwyl Jane

Gwaith Craffu ar Gyllideb Ddrafft Llywodraeth Cymru 2023-24

Cyn ein sesiwn graffu ar Gyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24 ym mis Ionawr 2023, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech roi gwybodaeth yn y meysydd a ganlyn.

Gwybodaeth gyffredinol

Trosolwg

Y llynedd, bu cynnydd yn y gyllideb ar gyfer holl adrannau Llywodraeth Cymru, gyda £110m wedi'i ddyrannu i'r Prif Grŵp Gwariant ar gyfer Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol – refeniw. Roedd y Gyllideb Ddrafft ar gyfer 2022-23 yn rhoi dyraniad dangosol o £122m ar gyfer 2023-2024. A ydych, yn awr, yn gallu cynnal yr ymrwymiad hwn i gynyddu'r dyraniad gwariant yn y Prif Grŵp Gwariant ar gyfer Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol yng Nghyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24, yng sgil yr hyn y mae'n bosibl y bydd Llywodraeth y DU ei gyhoeddi ar 17 Tachwedd? Rhwch y canlynol:

- Dadansoddiad o ddyraniadau'r Prif Grŵp Gwariant ar gyfer Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol 2023-24 yn ôl Maes Rhaglenni Gwariant, camau gweithredu a Llinell Wariant yn y Gyllideb.
- Sylwadau ar bob un o'r camau gweithredu yn y Prif Grŵp Gwariant, gan gynnwys dadansoddiad ac esboniad o'r newidiadau rhwng Cyllideb Atodol Gyntaf 2022-23, Cyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24 a'r Gyllideb Atodol Gyntaf.
- Tystiolaeth o sut y mae cydraddoldeb a chyfiawnder cymdeithasol llywio gwaith Llywodraeth Cymru at ei gilydd o ran pennu blaenoriaethau a dyrannu'r Gyllideb.
- Manylion am sut y mae dyraniadau gwariant wedi'u hail-flaenoriaethu, neu eu trosglwyddo o gyllidebau adrannol eraill (Prif Grwpiau Gwariant), i sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn cyflawni ei blaenoriaeth "i warchod y rhai sydd fwyaf agored i



niwed" yng sgil yr argyfwng costau byw, fel y nodir yn ei hymateb i fini-gyllideb Llywodraeth y DU.

Gwella'r Gyllideb

Asesiadau Effaith Integredig Strategol

Yn adroddiad Cyllideb Ddrafft 2022-23 y llynedd, fe wnaethom alw arnoch i gyhoeddi Asesiad Effaith Integredig Strategol wedi'i ddiweddarau cyn y ddadl yn y Senedd ar y Gyllideb Derfynol (**Argymhelliad 1**). Er i chi dderbyn yr argymhelliad hwn, ni wnaethoch chi ddarparu Asesiad Effaith Integredig Strategol wedi'i ddiweddarau. Yn hytrach, fe wnaethoch ein cyfeirio at dystiolaeth ysgrifenedig yr holl Weinidogion i bwyllgorau craffu'r Senedd.

- A ydych chi wedi adolygu eich dull o asesu effeithiau penderfyniadau cyllideb ddrafft ar wahanol grwpiau fel rhan o broses y Gyllideb ddrafft ar gyfer 2023-24?
- Ym mha ffyrdd y mae'r asesiad effaith integredig strategol wedi'i wella?

Unedau data Cydraddoldeb, Hil ac Anabledd

Fe wnaethom groesawu sefydlu Unedau Tystiolaeth Cydraddoldeb, Hil ac Anabledd yn ein hadroddiad blaenorol ar Gyllideb Ddrafft 2022-23, gan gydnabod yr angen am dystiolaeth gryfach i fynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldeb (**Argymhelliad 2**). Mae'r Unedau Tystiolaeth wedi cyhoeddi set o flaenoriaethau ar y cyd ar gyfer 2022-27 heb gyfeiriad o gwbl at gynllunio cyllidebol. Rhowch y canlynol:

- Manylion penodol am sut y mae gwaith yr unedau wedi helpu i lywio penderfyniadau gwariant yng Nghyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24.

Adolygiad CCydraddoldeb Rhwng y Rhywiau

Mae'r Rhaglen Lywodraethu yn cynnwys nifer o ymrwymadau yn ymwneud â chydraddoldeb rhwng y rhywiau ac yng Nghyllideb Ddrafft y llynedd, fe wnaethoch nodi gwariant mewn nifer o feysydd a luniwyd er mwyn datblygu'r cynllun Cydraddoldeb rhwng y Rhywiau.

- Cadarnhewch a yw'r cynllun Cydraddoldeb rhwng y Rhywiau wedi'i ddiweddarau ar ôl cwblhau'r gwaith y gwnaethoch gomisiynu Canolfan Dystiolaeth COVID-19 Cymru i'w wneud ar effaith y pandemig ar fenywod.
- Yn eich ymateb i'n galwad am fanylion pellach ar sut yr oeddech yn ariannu'r broses o roi'r Adolygiad Cydraddoldeb rhwng y Rhywiau (**Argymhelliad 3**) ar waith, gwnaethoch gyfeirio at flaenoriaethau y grŵp Cryfhau a Hyrwyddo Cydraddoldeb a Hawliau Dynol, sef: Trais yn Erbyn Menywod, Cam-drin Domestig a Thrais Rhywiol, Gofal ac Iechyd Menywod.
- Rhowch fanylion yr effaith y mae unrhyw ddyraniadau gwariant wedi'i chael yn y ardaloedd â blaenoriaeth hyn, yn ogystal ag esboniad ynghylch a oes dyraniadau cyllid parhaus i symud y blaenoriaethau hyn yn eu blaen yn y Gyllideb Ddrafft ar gyfer 2023-24.

Chwyddiant a'r cynnydd mewn costau byw

Yn adroddiad y Gyllideb Ddrafft y llynedd, amlygwyd ein pryderon am chwyddiant a'r effaith y gallai costau byw cynyddol ei chael ar wahanol bobl. Gwnaethom argymhell bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn ailflaenoriaethu cyllid pan fo angen i gefnogi'r rheini sydd fwyaf agored i niwed (**Argymhelliad 4**). Nodwch y dull a ddefnyddir gan Weinidogion i adolygu dyraniadau gwariant a ddyluniwyd i helpu i drechu tlodi, gan gynnwys:

- Manylion dyraniadau penodol i gefnogi aelwydydd â phwysau costau byw yng Nghyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24;
- gwybodaeth o ran a oes unrhyw drosglwyddiadau yn ystod y flwyddyn wedi digwydd er mwyn cynyddu dyraniadau rheolaidd a gynlluniwyd i fynd i'r afael â thlodi, er enghraifft y cynnydd yn y dyraniad i'r Gronfa Cymorth Dewisol a'r Gronfa Gyngori Sengl;
- manylion ynghylch sut mae dyraniadau gwariant wedi cael eu hailflaenoriaethu yng Nghyllideb ddrafft 2023-24 er mwyn amddiffyn yr aelwydydd sydd fwyaf agored i niwed rhag caledi ariannol; a hefyd
- y dystiolaeth y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i defnyddio i ddeall effaith y penderfyniadau hyn ar grwpiau sy'n wynebu anghydraddoldebau oherwydd nodweddion gwarchoddedig a/neu statws economaidd-gymdeithasol.

Dyled

Yn dilyn cyhoeddi ein adroddiad ar dyled ym mis Tachwedd 2021, rhowch y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am sut y mae'r sefyllfa economaidd bresennol yn effeithio ar y broseso roi ein hargymhellion ar waith. Yn benodol:

- Manylion unrhyw ddyraniadau gwariant penodol i atal a lleddfu dyled yng Nghyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24; a
- manylion am sut mae pwysau costau byw – yn enwedig y rheini sy'n effeithio ar aelwydydd ar yr incwm isaf – wedi dylanwadu ar benderfyniadau ynghylch gwariant.

Tlodi tanwydd

Cafodd ein hadroddiad ar dlodi tanwydd a'r Rhaglen Cartrefi Clyd ei gyhoeddi ym mis Mai. Rhowch y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am effaith y sefyllfa economaidd bresennol ar roi ein hargymhellion ar waith.

- Rhowch fanylion dyraniadau penodol i fynd i'r afael â lefelau cynyddol o dlodi tanwydd, ynghyd â'r modd yr ydych yn gweithio gyda'r Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd ar iteriad nesaf y Rhaglen Cartrefi Clyd.

Gwariant ataliol

Fe wnaethom argymhell yn ein hadroddiad ynghylch Cyllideb Ddrafft 2022-23 (**Argymhelliad 6**) y dylech chi gomisiynu gwaith ymchwil a chyingor annibynnol, arbenigol i wella sut rydym yn mesur effeithiolrwydd ac effaith y mesurau gwariant ataliol. Dywedom y dylai'r gwaith hwn dynnu ar arfer gorau ac enghreifftiau

rhyngwladol a dylai ddod i ben cyn i broses y Gyllideb ar gyfer 2023-24 ddechrau ym mis Rhagfyr eleni. Gwnaethoch dderbyn yr argymhelliad hwn, gan nodi y bydd diweddariad ar gyflawni Cynllun Gwella'r Gyllideb yn cael ei gyhoeddi ochr yn ochr â Chyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24. Byddem yn ddiolchgar pe gallech gymryd y camau a ganlyn:

- Cadarnhau sut mae'r ymchwil a'r cyngor wedi llywio penderfyniadau ar fesurau gwariant ataliol yng Nghyllideb ddrafft 2023-24;
- ymrwymo i gyhoeddi canfyddiadau'r ymchwil; ac
- amlinellu sut mae dyraniadau cyllidebol wedi'u llunio gan Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol.

Byddai'n dda gennym pe byddai eich hymateb yn dod i law erbyn 14 Rhagfyr 2022.

Yn gywir,



Jenny Rathbone AS

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

Equality and Social Justice Committee

Date: 16 January 2023

Title: Scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget 2022-23

General Information

1. Our resource allocation for the Social Justice MEG published at draft budget 2022-23 was £110.355m; this was set to increase to £122.685m for the 2023-24 financial year. At final budget 2022-23 our resource allocation increased from £110.355m to £227.585m this was mainly due to one off non recurrent allocation of £116.9m which were allocated as part of a package of measures to tackle the cost-of-living crisis.
2. For the 2023-24 draft budget our baseline for planning was the indicative budget set as part of the 2022-23 Spending Review. The table below demonstrates the changes made from 22-23 draft budget, to the first supplementary budget of 22-23 and the 2023-24 Draft Budget.

Table 1: Overview of changes to BEL tables

	Draft Budget 2022-23	Final Budget 2022-23	First Supplementary Budget 2022-23	Indicative Budget 2023-24	Draft Budget 2023-24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Resource	110,355	227,585	229,793	122,685	142,057
Capital	17,000	18,496	18,496	17,494	17,494
AME	28,063	28,063	28,063	26,045	25,132
Total	155,418	274,144	276,352	166,224	184,683

3. A breakdown of the 2023-24 Social Justice MEG allocations by Action and BEL is included at Annex A.

Overview of changes between 23-24 indicative budget and the 23-24 Draft Budget

4. As part of the 2023-24 Draft Budget to enable us to protect key areas, the Minister for Finance and Local Government undertook a reprioritisation exercise to release funding from within existing plans and re-focus limited resources in the areas of greatest need. The principles that underpinned the reprioritisation exercise were to deliver a balanced budget and protect the Programme for Government.
5. The Social Justice MEG was asked to contribute £2.68m towards this exercise which resulted in the following budget reductions being made on a recurrent basis:

Table 2: Savings identified to the Social Justice MEG on a recurrent basis

Budget Expenditure Line	Budget reduction £'000s
Fire and Rescue Service – Communication System – we ended funding for the Airwave contract	1,640
Social Partnerships	100
Public Appointments	200
Advice Services	174
Supporting Communities	250
Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights	316
Total	2,680

6. Difficult decisions were necessary to reduce budgets, and these were taken in full consideration of the impacts the reductions would have. Budgets for the Social Partnership, Public Appointments and Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights BELs will still increase between 2022-23 and 2023-24 but at a slower rate than previously planned.
7. The reduction to the Advice Services budget was possible due to the completion of a time limited European Transition project. This project came to an end and allowed the funding to be repurposed towards other areas. A saving of £250k has been possible against the Supporting Communities budget. This element of the budget was uncommitted and provided an annual contingency from which the portfolio was able to respond to requests for support for cross governmental priorities during the year.
8. Due to the reduction of £1.64m against the Fire and Rescue Service – Communications System BEL, the Firelink (Airwave) grant we provide to the FRAs of £1.640m revenue annually, will cease to be provided from 2023-24. The grant is a contribution towards the FRAs' service fees for the Firelink operational communication system. [
9. Using funding released from the reprioritisation exercise, together with positive changes to our overall settlement as a result of the Autumn Statement, the Welsh Government has targeted additional allocations towards delivering our Programme for Government commitments and helping those affected by the cost-of-living crisis.
10. Our portfolio received revenue **allocations of £22m** as part of the 2023-24 Draft Budget; this included **£18.8m for the Discretionary Assistance Fund, £2.2m for the Basic Income Pilot** and a further **£1m to meet inflationary pressures across the MEG**. The £1m uplift was allocated as follows:

Table 3: allocation of the £1m inflationary uplift across the Social Justice MEG

Budget Expenditure Line	Allocation £'000s
Community Support and Safety – 1.65% uplift to baseline	373
Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – 1.65% uplift to baseline	130
Support for the Voluntary Sector and Volunteering – 1.65% uplift to baseline	130
Chwarae Teg – 1.65% uplift to baseline	6

Budget Expenditure Line	Allocation £'000s
Future Generations Commissioner – 6% increase to baseline to meet expected increases to public sector pay. Also included £81k to correct baseline from previous position.	171
Older People’s Commissioner – 6% increase to baseline to meet expected increases to public sector pay.	95
Children’s Commissioner – 6% increase to baseline to meet expected increases to public sector pay.	95
Total	1,000

Commentary on Actions

Supporting Communities Action

Table 4: Supporting Communities Action

BEL	Resource / Capital	First Supplementary Budget 2022-23 £000's	Indicative Budget 2023-24 £000's	Draft Budget 2023-24 £000's
Basic Income	Resource	5,000	10,000	12,200
Financial Inclusion	Resource	125,822	20,202	39,002
Financial Inclusion	Capital	1,496	494	494
Digital Inclusion	Resource	2,149	1,399	1,399
Supporting Communities	Resource	6,794	1,483	1,233
Supporting Communities	Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000
International Development	Resource	1,275	1,275	1,275
Social Partnerships	Resource	886	961	861
Community Bank	Capital	1,500	1,500	1,500

Basic Income BEL 1089

11. The profile for the Basic Income Pilot agreed at the time of the 2022-23 Draft Budget was £5m in 22-23, £10m in 23-24 and £5m in 24-25 in line with the projected costs of the pilot with a peak of payments in year two. No changes were made to the budget at the first supplementary budget in 22-23.

12. An allocation of £2.2m has been made as part of the 23-24 Draft Budget; this allocation has been baselined into 2024-25.

Financial Inclusion BEL 1694

13. The first supplementary budget in 22-23 included the following non recurrent revenue allocations made at the 22-23 Final Budget as part of a wider cost of living package:

- £90m for Welsh Government Fuel Support Scheme
- £15m for DAF; and
- £0.62m for Credit Unions.

14. These allocations were made for one year only. The 22-23 final budget also allocated £1m in financial transaction capital to the Financial Inclusion BEL to undertake a “no interest loan” scheme starting in December 2022. The £1m is being loaned to the new consortium, Social Credit, (a collaboration between

Robert Owen Community Bank, Purple Shoots and Plend) as lending capital for the pilot. This was offset by repayments of £6k.

15. Due to demand for the Discretionary Assistance Fund continuing to be very high during 2022-23, an allocation of £18.8m has been made in 2023-24 to meet this continued demand which has been baselined into 2024-25. The flexibilities that were introduced during the Covid pandemic, and which have remained to date in order to include supporting the UKG's removal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift, are being reviewed to ensure equity of access in the current cost of living crisis. The review will prioritise providing enhanced levels of support for people experiencing crisis. The timing of any changes going live are also under review. I am currently taking evidence from key partners in the Social Justice sector to shape the best way forward for the fund.

Supporting Communities BEL 1086

16. The Supporting Communities BEL includes a revenue budget of £6.794m at the 22-23 first supplementary budget. This includes the following non recurrent resource allocations made at 22-23 final budget:

- £1m to the WLGA to tackle food poverty,
- £0.7m for Big Bocs Bwyd and £0.2m for Fareshare Cymru; and
- £3.418m in respect of the Anti-Poverty Strategy.

17. No further allocations were made at the first supplementary budget. The indicative budget for 23-24 returns to its baseline position of £1.483m.

18. No changes were made to this BEL as part of the 22-23 first supplementary budget.

19. As part of the 2023-24 Draft Budget this BEL has been reduced by £250k. This reduction took place as part of the Social Justice MEG's contribution to the Welsh Government reprioritisation exercise. This has removed a contingency held within the MEG to respond to in year request for cross governmental support to particular priorities.

Social Partnerships BEL 1693

20. No changes were made to this BEL as part of the 22-23 first supplementary budget or the 22-23 final budget.

21. As part of the 2023-24 Draft Budget this BEL has been reduced by £100k. This reduction took place as part of the Social Justice MEG's contribution to the Welsh Government reprioritisation exercise. This reduced the planned increase for the BEL that was due to take place between the 22-23 draft budget and the 2023-24 indicative budget.

Digital Inclusion

22. No changes were made to this BEL as part of the final budget. As part of the 22-23 first supplementary budget a transfer of £750k from the HSS BEL took place to extend the digital inclusion and health procured programme.

International Development

23. No changes were made to this BEL as part of the 22-23 first supplementary budget or the 22-23 final budget.

Community Bank

24. No changes were made to this BEL as part of the 22-23 first supplementary budget or the 22-23 final budget.

Fire and Rescue Services and Resilience Action

Table 5: Fire and Rescue Services and Resilience Action

BEL	Resource / Capital	First Supplementary Budget 2022-23 £000's	Indicative Budget 2023-24 £000's	Draft Budget 2023-24 £000's
Fire & Rescue Services	Resource	8,045	8,405	8,405
Fire & Rescue Services	Capital	1,000	1,500	1,500
Fire & Rescue Services – Comms Systems	Resource	3,915	3,915	2,275
Fire & Rescue Services – Comms Systems	Capital	210	210	210
Community Fire Safety	Resource	848	848	848
Community Fire Safety	Capital	900	900	900

25. No changes were made to these BELs as part of the 22-23 final budget or the 22-23 first supplementary budget.

26. As part of the 2023-24 Draft Budget the Fire & Rescue Services Communications Systems budget has reduced by £1.64m. This reduction took place as part of the Social Justice MEG's contribution to the Welsh Government reprioritisation exercise. This will mean that financial support from the Welsh Government towards the Airwave contract will end on 31 March 2023.

Commissioners Action

Table 6: Commissioners Action

BEL	Resource / Capital	First Supplementary Budget 2022-23 £000's	Indicative Budget 2023-24 £000's	Draft Budget 2023-24 £000's
Older People's Commissioner	Resource	1,598	1,598	1,693
Children's Commissioner	Resource	1,678	1,580	1,727
Public Appointments	Resource	375	600	400
Future Generations Commissioner Wales	Resource	1,509	1,509	1,680

27. No allocations were made to these BELs as part of the 22-23 first supplementary budget or the 22-23 final budget.

28. The budget for the Public Appointments BEL was planned to increase by £255k as part of the indicative budget plans for 23-24. This change was undertaken as part of the 22-23 Spending Review. As part of the 2023-24 Draft Budget the indicative budget was reduced by £200k removing part of the planned increase. This reduction took place as part of the Social Justice MEG's contribution to the Welsh Government reprioritisation exercise.

29. The budget for the Children’s Commissioner at the first supplementary budget of 2022-23 was higher than the indicative budget in 2023-24 following an in-year transfer received from the health MEG to support pressures reported by the Children’s Commissioner that were not possible to meet through the Social Justice MEG at the time of publishing the 2022-23 Draft Budget.

30. As part of the 2023-24 Draft Budget each Commissioner has received an uplift of 6% compared to their baseline budget (2022-23 Final Budget). This resulted in an uplift of £90k for the Future Generations Commissioner and uplifts of £95k for the Older People’s Commissioner and the Children’s Commissioner. The Children’s Commissioner also received a non cash budget of £52k. The Future Generation’s Commissioner received a further £81k so that they’re baseline budget was increased from £1.509m to £1.590m in line with a previous agreement.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Action

Table 7: Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Action

BEL	Resource / Capital	First Supplementary Budget 2022-23 £000’s	Indicative Budget 2023-24 £000’s	Draft Budget 2023-24 £000’s
Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	Resource	8,006	7,875	8,005
Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	Capital	2,200	2,200	2,200

31. No changes were made to these BELs as part of the 22-23 final budget. At the 22-23 first supplementary budget a revenue allocation of £131k was made from the Climate Change MEG to the VAWDASV revenue BEL following the Internal Review of the Homelessness Prevention Grant which aligned funding with the Safer Wales – Street Life funding.

32. As part of the 2023-24 Draft Budget an allocation of £130k has been made to the VAWDASV revenue BEL which is an increase of 1.65% compared to their baseline.

Equality and Community Cohesion Action

Table 8: Equality and Community Cohesion Action

BEL	Resource / Capital	First Supplementary Budget 2022-23 £000’s	Indicative Budget 2023-24 £000’s	Draft Budget 2023-24 £000’s
Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights	Resource	17,148	17,632	17,316
Chwarae Teg	Resource	360	360	366

Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights BEL 7060

33. The budget for this BEL published at first supplementary budget included the following non-recurrent resource allocations made at the 22-23 final budget:

- £1.5m for Migrant Intergration;
- £1m for Gypsy & Roma Traveller digital services;
- £0.7m for Period Dignity; and
- £1m for Equalities Initiatives.

34. The indicative allocation for 23-24 included an allocation of £4.946m, this indicative allocation for 23-24 was reduced by £316k. This reduction took place as part of the Social Justice MEG's contribution to the Welsh Government reprioritisation exercise.

Advocacy Services Action

Table 9: Advocacy Services Action

BEL	Resource / Capital	First Supplementary Budget 2022-23 £000's	Indicative Budget 2023-24 £000's	Draft Budget 2023-24 £000's
Advice Services	Resource	12,831	11,849	11,675

35. The Advice Services BEL included a non-recurrent resource allocation at final budget 22-23 of £1.7m for the Single Advice Fund. A further allocation of £1.056m transfer was made at the first supplementary budget in 22-23 as a result of a transfer from HMT for Debt Advice Funding.

36. The indicative budget for 2023-24 includes £1.674m to support the single advice fund.

37. The budget for the BEL has been reduced as part of the 2023-24 Draft Budget by £174k which is as a result of a European Transition project coming to an end. This reduction took place as part of the Social Justice MEG's contribution to the Welsh Government reprioritisation exercise.

Support for the Voluntary Sector

Table 10: Support for the Voluntary Sector Action

BEL	Resource / Capital	First Supplementary Budget 2022-23 £000's	Indicative Budget 2023-24 £000's	Draft Budget 2023-24 £000's
Support for the Voluntary Sector & Volunteering	Resource	7,494	7,494	7,624

38. No changes were made to this BELs as part of the 22-23 final budget or the 22-23 first supplementary budget.

39. As part of the 23-24 Draft Budget this budget has increased by £130k which represents a 1.65% increase on the baseline.

Community Support and Safety

Table 11: Community Support and Safety Action

BEL	Resource / Capital	First Supplementary Budget 2022-23 £000's	Indicative Budget 2023-24 £000's	Draft Budget 2023-24 £000's
Community Support & Safety	Resource	22,625	22,625	22,998

40. No changes were made to these BELs as part of the 22-23 final budget or the 22-23 first supplementary budget.

41. As part of the 23-24 Draft Budget this budget has increased by £373k which represents a 1.65% increase on the baseline.

Female Offending and Youth Justice Blueprints

Table 12: Female Offending and Youth Justice Blueprints Action

BEL	Resource / Capital	First Supplementary Budget 2022-23 £000's	Indicative Budget 2023-24 £000's	Draft Budget 2023-24 £000's
Female Offending & Youth Justice Blueprints	Resource	1,075	1,075	1,075

42. No changes were made to these BELs as part of the 22-23 final budget or the 22-23 first supplementary budget.

Gypsy Traveller Sites

Table 13: Gypsy Traveller Sites Action

BEL	Resource / Capital	First Supplementary Budget 2022-23 £000's	Indicative Budget 2023-24 £000's	Draft Budget 2023-24 £000's
Gypsy Traveller Sites	Capital	3,690	3,190	3,190

43. No changes were made to these BELs as part of the 22-23 final budget or the 22-23 first supplementary budget.

Community Facilities

Table 14: Community Facilities Action

BEL	Resource / Capital	First Supplementary Budget 2022-23 £000's	Indicative Budget 2023-24 £000's	Draft Budget 2023-24 £000's
Community Facilities Programme	Capital	6,500	6,500	6,500

44. No changes were made to these BELs as part of the 22-23 final budget or the 22-23 first supplementary budget.

Prioritising support for the most vulnerable

45. This draft budget has been prepared in hard times following years of austerity as well as the continuing impacts of Brexit and the pandemic. Inflation is at a very high level and expected to remain high through 2023-24 impacting at a higher level for those on the lowest incomes. These factors have exacerbated the cost-of-living crisis we are now experiencing. Our priority has been to protect public services, tackle inequalities and shield the vulnerable; however, we have had to do this within the context of limited funding and also recognising that inflation means our budgets are now worth considerably less than they were worth in December 2021 when our plans were originally published.

46. As part of the preparation of this Draft Budget, across Welsh Government a reprioritisation exercise was undertaken to identify where funding could be released from within existing plans to be refocused on areas of greatest need. The reprioritisation work has been based on three priorities:

- Protecting frontline public services and our ambitions for the future;
- Continuing to provide help to those most affected by the cost-of-living crisis; and
- Supporting our economy through recessionary times.

47. Each Minister will set out the reprioritisation decisions taken impacting their own portfolios within their own evidence papers.

48. Within my own MEG I have prioritised funding for the Discretionary Assistance Fund and the Basic Income Pilot. I have allocated an additional £18.8m to the Discretionary Assistance Fund in 2023-24, baselined into 2024-25, which brings the budget next year in line with the demand we are seeing in this financial year. The DAF is a key tool in our response to the cost-of-living crisis and ensures that support is available to the most vulnerable members of our society.

49. The Basic Income Pilot is a radical intervention, supporting a group of young care leavers with an income of £1,600 (before tax) every month. We continue to support the pilot, which will run for two years and are allocating an additional £2.2m in 2023-24 to ensure that support is available to all those eligible to participate in the pilot.

50. We received a small inflationary uplift for the MEG of £1m as part of the 2023-24 Draft Budget to support key priorities in my portfolio including allocations to the third sectors and to PSCOs.
51. Across Welsh Government other allocations have been made to support the most vulnerable which include £9m for Pupil Development Grant, and £10m for Housing. These allocations are all baselined into 2024-25. In addition to this we have allocated £40m in 2023-24 reducing to £20m in 2024-25 to support our ongoing response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine; this funding will support those fleeing the conflict and seeking sanctuary in Wales.
52. I have also protected funding for our work to tackle Violence Against Women, Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse (VAWDASV). The Welsh Government has developed its new, five-year VAWDASV National Strategy for 2022-26 alongside a group of key partner organisations including the police, specialist sector and survivors. Our Programme for Government commits to strengthening the strategy to include a focus on violence against women in the street and workplace as well as the home. Delivery of the strategy will be through a Blueprint approach which brings together devolved and non-devolved organisations. The VAWDASV revenue budget for 2023-2024 is £8.005 million, which supports the Programme for Government commitment, while the capital budget is £2.2 million, which supports a range of statutory and voluntary organisations' VAWDASV capital projects.

Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment

53. We continue to outline the steps we are taking to reform budget and tax process improvements as part of our Budget Improvement Plan which is published alongside the Draft Budget. This year we have worked collaboratively with the Budget Improvement Impact Advisory Group (BIIAG) to explore how we undertake the Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment (SIIA); this has included some changes within the SIIA published as part of this Draft Budget. Further longer-term actions are being explored through continued working with the BIIAG to review our approach to assessing impacts of budget decisions as part of the Budget Improvement Plan (BIP).
54. It also remains important to recognise that this SIIA outlines the contextual evidence that has supported our spending decisions. It is just one of a suite of documents published as part of our Draft Budget, with the impact of spending decisions outlined as part of the main narratives in chapters four, complemented by the SIIA at Annex A. Following publication of the Draft Budget, the Minister for Finance and Local Government will publish an extensive summary of all Ministers' written evidence to Senedd scrutiny committees on allocations within each MEG; this will provide a more detailed account as to how Draft Budget decisions have impacted on different groups.

Equality, Race and Disability Data Units

55. The Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units have met regularly with the Minister for Finance and Local Government's officials preparing the draft budget over the last year, sharing relevant releases and events on equality evidence to inform the budget process. More recently, in collaboration with analysts across

the wider Equality, Poverty and Children's Evidence and Support Division, they have provided a high-level and intersectional analysis of available evidence on inequality to highlight which people may be most impacted by budget cuts. The evidence was summarised across a range of issues including who were most likely to be impacted in areas such as long-covid, the cost of living and environmental emergencies. The information provided has been used to inform the SIIA which will sit alongside the 2023-24 Draft Budget.

56. As outlined in the Equality and Disability Evidence Unit's strategy, in the longer term, they will provide high level advice, guidance, support and challenge so that data on inequalities can be used appropriately by policy officials to support better policy decisions including policy impact assessments and spending decisions.

Gender Equality Review

57. Our Advancing Gender Equality in Wales Plan provides the framework through which we will address the changing landscape for women in Wales. The first phase implementation plan which identifies short- and medium-term priority actions, was published in March 2020 and covers the period 2020-23.

58. Given the impact of Covid-19, there was a need to update the plan to reflect the new context. The Wales COVID-19 Evidence Centre and the Bangor Institute for Health & Medical Research (BIHMR) was commissioned to identify international, innovative practice that may be included in the Plan to ensure it properly responds to the impact of Covid-19 in relation to gender equality. The final report was published in February 2022.

59. Alongside this, an analysis of the lived experience of women in Wales throughout the pandemic was undertaken by WEN Wales as a part of their work programme supported through the Equality and Inclusion grant funding.

60. A dedicated Gender Equality Forum was established earlier this year to oversee implementation of the Gender Equality Review and Advancing Gender Equality in Wales Plan. This work was previously undertaken by a sub-group of the Strengthening and Advancing Equality and Human Right steering group. However, the standalone Forum will provide more time for detailed discussions to drive forward and scrutinise progress.

61. The reports from both the Wales COVID-19 Evidence Centre and WEN Wales were shared with Forum members following their publication in February/March 2022. An internal progress review against the Plan was also undertaken and an update was shared with Forum members in February 2022. This showed that although work on the plan was slower than anticipated due to the pandemic, a significant amount of work across a range of priority actions had been undertaken.

62. All these actions are feeding into the work currently underway to co-produce the next iteration of the Plan which will reflect the changing priorities for women and girls in Wales in light of both the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. Gender Equality Forum members are instrumental in the co-production role. Using their own expertise, lived experiences of their clients and networks and evidence from reports including those from the Wales Covid-19 Evidence Centre and WEN Wales, the Forum has identified key priority areas to be addressed.

63. At the most recent Forum meeting held in October, Forum members were able to engage directly with policy officials working on women's health and unpaid care to explore these priority areas in more depth.
64. Upcoming work includes a further progress update on actions in the Plan which will be provided to Forum members in January. This will be accompanied by a workshop with Forum members to identify and refine specific priority areas and actions, consider where actions need to go further and where there are gaps/changing priorities and to consider the Gender Action Plan alongside the development of the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan (ARWAP), LGBTQ+ Action Plan and the work of the disability rights taskforce.

Wales Anti-Racist Action Plan

65. A key priority of The Welsh Government is our commitment to creating an anti-racist nation by 2030. Our Wales Anti-racist Action Plan, which was launched on Tuesday 7th June, is built on the values of anti-racism and calls for zero tolerance of all racial inequality.
66. Since the launch of the report, we have appointed the Head of the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan Implementation Team. Recruitment for other roles is currently underway.
67. Work is also underway to establish the Governance structure. We have now completed the sifting and interviews for seven external anti-racism experts and eleven diversity representatives with lived experience to join the External Accountability Group. The induction and first meeting of the External Accountability Group will be held in January 2023.
68. Work is also underway to establish Regional Forums which will capture lived experience and provide a direct link to our work and engagement with our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people across Wales.
69. We have now received feedback on our draft communication plan, and we are hoping that our central communications plan to promote the work of the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan will be completed by the end of December.
70. The initial recommendations made in the Deeds not Words and Roadmap reports will also be considered to determine whether there are longer term recommendations that could now be incorporated into the new plan or if there are any gaps.
71. An update of the plan will not mean that work on the existing plan will end or that work cannot begin until the new plan is published.
72. The Advancing Gender Equality in Wales Plan is cross-governmental and cross-cutting. The actions in the plan are owned by different areas of Welsh Government and the spending allocations to progress the actions are therefore taken across Welsh Government. The Programme for Government prioritises implementation of key aspects of this Plan and reflects the priority areas identified by the Gender Equality Forum. Action is already underway in many of these areas.

73. Officials from the Equality team co-ordinate the plan, influence cross government policy development and monitor progress.
74. A key aim of the Plan is to embed equality across Welsh Government by ensuring that all policy areas take account of the intersecting needs of citizens in Wales when developing and implementing policy and practice and there have been some significant steps forward in this area.
75. We have made a commitment to embedding **gender budgeting** in our budgetary processes. A longer-term plan of this work can be found in our Budget Improvement Plan which is updated annually alongside our Draft Budget. Consideration of gender is undertaken as part of our Strategic Integrated Impact assessment which is published alongside our 2023-24 Draft Budget.
76. As is outlined in the updated Budget Improvement Plan, we have continued to evolve our work to embed a gender focused approach in a number of areas. To ensure we are learning lessons from others, we have used our links through the Well-being Governments network (WeGo) to continue engagement with world leaders such as Iceland and Canada and widen our networks with others operating in this area. We are working closely with members of the Budget Improvement and Impact Advisory Group (BIIAG) to look at how a tool such as gender budgeting can assist us in strengthening our budget and tax processes, with a particular focus on how we assess the impacts of our spending decisions.
77. Changes to this process are being considered both in the short and longer term with a clearer plan of action being developed collaboratively with the Group and further detail can be found within this Plan. The Plan also provides an update on our three Gender Budgeting pilots; the Personal Learning Accounts (PLA), the Young Persons Guarantee (YPG) pilot and the E-Move project being delivered by Sustrans Cymru.
78. Gender mainstreaming was also identified as a key mechanism to embed equality across Welsh Government. In 2021 the Minister for Social Justice agreed funding for a Mainstreaming Equality Pilot to take place. Dr Alison Parken led the work which began in November 2021 and reported in September 2022. The equality mainstreaming model was tested on a live policy area to produce a practical case study and recommendations as to how the mainstreaming model could be incorporated into policy making across Welsh Government.

Social Model of Disability

79. The Welsh Government is committed to applying and embedding the Social Model of Disability throughout everything it does.
80. The 'Locked Out: Liberating Disabled People's Lives and Rights in Wales beyond COVID-19' report was published in July 2021. The report highlights the inequalities that many disabled people face in Wales which were exacerbated by the pandemic. The Disability Rights Taskforce was originally established to run until the summer 2023, but this has been extended to 31 March 2024. The work of the Taskforce is based on a common understanding of the Social Model of Disability, Human Rights, and Co-production.

81. The Taskforce established the following workstreams were identified as priority areas for the programme of work: Embedding and Understanding of the Social Model of Disability (across Wales):
- Access to Services (including Communications and Technology)
 - Independent Living: Social Care
 - Independent Living: Health and Wellbeing
 - Travel
 - Employment and Income
 - Affordable and Accessible Housing
 - Children and Young People
82. The Working Groups have a range of stakeholders, which includes organisations that support disabled people, disabled people with lived experience and Welsh Government policy leads. A facilitation contract with Access Design Solutions is in place.
83. All members of the Taskforce and working groups have been offered training on the 'Social Model of Disability', delivered by Disability Wales. Officials are also developing bespoke training for colleagues in the Health and Social Care inspectorates.
84. Training on Co-production will be delivered to the Taskforce and working group members in December 2023 and January 2024.
85. A remuneration process for 'community mentors' is currently under development.
86. The working groups will co-produce the Disability Rights Action plan, to be published in 2024.
87. The UK Government introduced a Bill of Rights (Economic, Social and Cultural rights), in June, and as of yet no date has been set for the second reading of the Bill. Subject to the Bill not being withdrawn, a Legislative Consent Memorandum will need to be laid before the Senedd. The scope of the Bill which seeks to repeal the Human Rights Act 1998 is wide. The intention is that the UK will remain a state party to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The wide scope means that if the Bill proceeds, it is conceivable that amendments may be laid with the intent to legislate for Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) rights. ESC rights are contained in UN Conventions rather than the ECHR; a recent report by the Brown commission has recommended that there should be new and constitutionally protected, social rights.
88. While opposition amendments may not be accepted, any serious proposal to make ESC rights justiciable and subject to the oversight of the courts would be a significant constitutional development. The work being undertaken by the Human Rights Action Group will, in part, consider how ESC rights can be given effect to in Wales via legislation or otherwise.

Inflation and the cost of living

89. Inflation and its impact on cost of living has been a key consideration as part of this draft budget. Since the publication of our draft budget last year, we announced a one year £330m package of support to tackle the cost of living crisis which included £90m to implement a Welsh Government Fuel Support

Scheme in the autumn of 2022 as well as an additional £15m for the Discretionary Assistance Fund and £1.7m for the Single Advice Fund in 2022-23. Further support has also been provided to the Discretionary Assistance Fund in year with its forecast overspend managed within the MEG.

90. As we have set out above, as part of the 2023-24 Draft Budget, as a Government we undertook an exercise to review and reprioritise our budgets in order to prioritise our support where it was needed most. As a result of this exercise the following allocations have been made to support households with cost-of-living pressures through this Draft Budget:

- **£18.8m for the Discretionary Assistance Fund** – the DAF provides emergency support payments for people in need and is a fundamental part of our support for vulnerable individuals. The additional allocation of £18.8m in my MEG will ensure people severely impacted by the cost-of-living crisis can continue to access this emergency support.
- **£9m for Pupil Development Grant** - Tackling the impact of poverty on children and young people's attainment is central to our flagship Pupil Development Grant (PDG). In MEWL MEG year on year we have extended the PDG to reflect the increase in eFSM learners, with funding for 2022-23 now at around £130m. The current cost of living crisis and economic downturn is having an impact on lower income households. Building on the additional £20m allocated as part of last year's Spending Review, we have allocated a further £9m to the PDG from 2023-24 to support our most economically vulnerable learners.
- **£10m for Housing** - The cost-of-living crisis and subsequent impact on household budgets means many people are unable to pay their rent or other household bills and risk falling into rent arrears and subsequently risk facing eviction. This is pushing more individuals to seek homelessness prevention support from local authority homelessness teams, there is a very real risk that the already high presentation numbers will continue to increase as the cost-of-living crisis further impacts households. An allocation of £10m to the MCC MEG has been made to prevent homelessness and maintain 'no-one left out' approach to ensure no-one is forced to sleep rough. The additional funding will enable further homelessness prevention measures, including where homelessness cannot be prevented, meeting the costs of temporary accommodation.

91. We are also maintaining our financial support in other areas, for example Pupil Development Grant Access. The PDG Access grant has made a huge difference to many lower income families across Wales, helping to remove the worry surrounding the purchase of school uniform and equipment, enabling children to attend school and take part in activities at the same level as their peers. In 2021/22 the grant was extended to eligible children and young people in all compulsory school years, meaning that even more families can now benefit from this support. For 2023-24, the budget for PDG Access is £13.6m, with funding of £125 per learner for all year groups up to Year 11, and £200 for learners in Year 7.

Debt

92. In 2023-24 we will make £11m grant funding available to Single Advice Fund (SAF) services, from which at least £3.1m will be ringfenced to fund the provision of generalist and specialist debt advice services. We have a longstanding commitment to supporting advice services, recognising how these services tackle income poverty, prevent homelessness, enhance employability, and bring improvements to health and well-being of some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. Since January 2020, SAF services have helped 144,000 people deal with over 660,000 social welfare problems. Those helped were supported to claim additional income of £83 million and had debts totalling £23 million written off.
93. It is rare that debt is the only problem a person will have, this is why debt advice is delivered through the integrated SAF, where a person will get advice to resolve their debt problems, together with income maximisation support and help to resolve other social welfare problems, such as, housing or employment or discrimination. This ensures any underlying causes of debts are tackled, enabling people to take more control of their finances.
94. With the uncertain economic climate, the demands on advice services, especially debt advice, will continue to increase in the next financial year. Our continued funding of the collaborative SAF delivery model, which provides services to address a person's crisis needs and offers them wraparound support to develop their resilience to future social welfare problems occurring, will help to meet some of this increased demand by reducing the need for people to keep returning for advice.
95. The cost-of-living crisis is having a negative impact on household budgets throughout Wales, but we know it is the most vulnerable people who are facing the toughest financial struggles. In the last year, 83% of people accessing SAF services identified themselves as coming from a population group who are being hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis, including older people, disabled people, and people from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic Communities. By maintaining our grant funding for the SAF in 2023-24, we can be confident that our advice and support services will be reaching the people who are in most need.
96. As a Government we have repurposed our budgets in order to prioritise funding for those hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis. This has resulted in additional allocations for the Discretionary Assistance Fund, homelessness services, and the Pupil Development Grant as set out above.

Fuel poverty

97. The Warm Homes Programme has developed in response to the current crisis and the committee recommendations. Since 2010 to the end of March 2021, more than £394m has been invested to improve home energy efficiency through the Warm Homes Programme, benefitting more than 67,100 lower income households. People on means tested benefits or who have specific health needs and are eligible, have been able to receive free energy adaptations such as heating, insulation or solar panels as part of our Nest scheme. For 2020/21 Nest provided over 15,500 households with tailored advice and referrals to third party services. Benefit entitlement checks resulted in a household average £2,091

potential increase in benefit take-up, increasing benefit take up by nearly £1m last year. Although not yet published, officials expect a similar level of activity and outcomes for 2021/22 and in the current financial year.

98. The Warm Homes Programme Nest Scheme improvements include investing in innovation through solar PV and more recently the introduction of battery storage, which will enable homes to use energy at source. This has resulted in some households being able to exceed the expenditure cap. An enhanced winter fuel campaign launched on 1 November, delivered through the Warm Homes Programme Nest scheme, is targeting a wider audience on energy efficiency advice, accessible to all households in Wales, also providing sign posting to claim what's yours via AdviceLink Cymru. Wider advertising is planned into early next year to increase the targeting of the campaign.
99. The Minister for Climate Change made an oral statement in plenary on 8 November providing information about how the Welsh Government will approach the challenges and opportunities of responding to the climate emergency across all housing tenures. The intention is to continue to take a fabric first, worst first and low carbon approach, delivering measures to improve the energy efficiency of the least thermally efficient low-income households in Wales.
100. This will be achieved in two parts: Part one will bring forward the procurement of a replacement demand led service, to ensure continuity to assist those least able to pay to respond to the cost-of-living crisis. This will also ensure a just and affordable transition to low carbon homes. Part two is the development of a whole housing stock approach to decarbonisation to provide a long-term strategy for energy efficiency, fuel poverty and decarbonisation for the sector.
101. From a wider perspective, funding of £380m has been made available for a package of measures to support households, since October 2021. This includes funding for; the Discretionary Assistance Fund, helping people meet their emergency needs, such as food and fuel; the £150 Cost of living payment; further 'Claim what's yours' campaigns and support for advice services to help people access their benefit entitlements; £4.9m to support access to food and the development of food partnerships; and funding to support the development of Warm Hubs.
102. The 2021/22 Winter Fuel Support Scheme supported 166,780 households with a £200 payment towards their energy costs. scheme, The 2022/23 Welsh Government Fuel Support has extended support to more households in the current scheme, including:
- Supporting a wider cohort of benefit households;
 - Measures to support households who do not pay for their energy costs directly to a supplier;
 - Support for all households including those off grid i.e., Oil and LPG;
 - Extending the payment window to allow individuals a wider opportunity to claim and Local Authorities more time to identify eligible residents and to process payments.
103. As of 2nd December 2022, we have made payments to over 275,000 households under the Welsh Government Fuel Support Scheme.

104. We have invested £4m through the Fuel Bank Foundation to support households on pre-payment meters who are struggling with the cost of topping up their energy and to support those off grid to purchase bulk fuel such as oil and LPG to heat their homes.
105. Up to the end of November 2022 the Fuel Bank Foundation had issued 2,666 vouchers to support those who are not able to afford to top up their pre-payment meters – supporting over 6,300 people. Their Heat fund, established as part of our £4m support package, has supported over 50 households to buy bulk fuel worth £21,000.
106. The extension of the fuel support scheme will mean nearly 200,000 more households on child tax credits, pension credits, disability benefits, carers allowance, contributory benefits and those receiving help from the Council Tax Reduction Scheme to pay their council tax bill will now be eligible. As of 18 November, payments have been made to over 260,000 households.
107. We have seen strong demand for the Pre-Payment Meter top up vouchers under the Fuel Bank Foundation with 2666 vouchers issued between August and the 20 November this year supporting over 6336 individuals. This is broadly in line with the predicted rate by the Fuel Bank Foundation. In terms of the heat fund for bulk purchase of fuel for off grid homes, 54 households have received support to date to a value of £21,000.
108. Funding for the Warm Homes Programme is within the Minister for Climate Change’s portfolio.

Preventative Spend

109. Our VAWDASV National Strategy, outlined above at para 52, includes an increased focus on preventative work and work with perpetrators. Tackling perpetration is one of the six main workstreams of our Blueprint approach to delivering the strategy, but prevention is also a crucial, cross-cutting theme across all the workstreams. The underlying principles which will inform our approach are to:
- Tackle perpetrators by changing the culture of misogyny and harassment
 - Create dialogue amongst men about what masculinity means,
 - Build and sustain effective services,
 - Hold perpetrators to account,
 - ‘Turn off the tap’ and create societal changes to de-normalise and marginalise attitudes that give succour to abusers including challenging beliefs,
 - De-normalise sexual violence and harassment,
 - Undermine the environment in which DA takes place.
110. We are continuing to support **Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)**, increasing our total budget for Community Support and Safety from £22.625m in 2022-23 to £22.998m in 2023-24. Although policing is not devolved, we are committed to keeping communities in Wales safe through our funding for PCSOs. PCSOs provide visible and practical support to communities, building relationships with local people and delivering work to prevent crime and ensure people feel safe where they live.

111. On the 13 December the **Child Poverty Progress Report 2022** was laid before the Senedd. The report shows the Welsh Government has made tackling child poverty a priority. We have made significant investment in a range of policies and programmes to promote prosperity, prevent and mitigate poverty and reduce the number of children living in poverty in Wales despite the extremely difficult financial climate.
112. In 2022/23 we will have invested £1.6bn in supporting people through the cost-of-living crisis by providing targeted help to those who need it the most and through programmes and schemes which put money back in people's pockets. The 2023/24 draft budget provides funding for those programmes which will address the immediate consequences of the ongoing cost of living crisis such as an enhanced package for the Discretionary Assistance Fund in the Social Justice MEG. It also continues to provide funding for preventative measures to address poverty and inequality such as continuing to provide income maximisation advice through the Single Advice Fund, and additional funding for the Basic Income Pilot for Care Leavers. It will also ensure we can maintain all those other programmes in Wales, which put money back in people's pockets – from free prescriptions to free school meals and support with the costs of sending children to school.
113. We will continue to enrol eligible young care leaver onto our Basic Income pilot. The £20m pilot will explore the benefits of a Basic Income to Care leavers in Wales on this extremely vulnerable group of young people as they transition from care into adulthood. The evaluation of the pilot will provide an opportunity to explore the longer term impacts of a regular basic income payment, including on poverty and how this payment can support the young people in the choices they make and their immediate and longer term prospects.
114. We commissioned the Wales Centre for Public Policy (WCPP) to undertake an international review of what works in tackling poverty and the report was published in September 2022 <https://www.wcpp.org.uk/publication/review-of-poverty-and-social-exclusion-in-wales/>. It identifies four key areas of focus around which poverty alleviation efforts could be coordinated going forward including (i) Reducing costs and maximising income, (ii) Pathways out of poverty by enabling wider socio-economic participation, (iii) An enabling environment and (iv) Mental load and mental health affecting people living in poverty and social exclusion.
115. This research confirms that the Welsh Government cannot tackle poverty and inequality alone. Our future approach will see greater levels of engagement with our key partners across Wales to drive activity and strengthening the impact of our collective efforts by working together towards a common goal. Working alongside our partners, we will use every lever we have available to make a positive difference for people in poverty to ensure they are able to fulfil their potential.
116. In the coming months we will launch a consultation on a refreshed Child Poverty Strategy for Wales with a view to publishing the Strategy in Autumn 2023. This will be informed by evidence from our child poverty review which looked at what more needs to be done to ensure that existing poverty programmes have maximum impact on the lives of children living in poverty; it will draw on the findings of the Wales Centre for Public Policy's review of what works in tackling

poverty. We will also be seeking the views of people and organisations across Wales, including those with a lived experience of poverty.

117. Committing to this action was seen in the context of the wider work of the Budget Improvement Plan (BIP). On this basis there were other important steps that needed to be explored before any consideration could be given to commissioning independent expert advice.
118. Through our reformed Budget Improvement Impact Advisory Group (BIIAG) we are engaging with key stakeholders on improving budget and tax processes. Our BIP already outlines the actions we are taking on prevention. Consideration of prevention is part of the planned 2023 work schedule for BIIAG. As part of this work, we will consider the case for using commissioned expert advice, balanced against the costs of doing so. We will also continue to engage with international experts and other nations to draw on best practice in areas of wider budget process improvement.
119. An update of delivery of the Budget Improvement Plan has been published alongside the Draft Budget on 13th December 2022.
120. Our 2023-24 Draft Budget continues to be guided by the Well-being of Future Generations Act. This builds on the action we took last year as part of the Welsh Spending Review to align funding up to 2024-25 with delivery of the Programme for Government which contains Welsh Government's Well-being objectives.
121. A particular focus of the 2023-24 process has been balancing short- and long-term outcomes. This includes responding to short-term issues linked to the cost of living, Ukraine and wider inflationary pressures balanced against areas such as longer-term sustainability of public services. Prevention is at the heart of this approach, with the short-term investments in our Budget doing all we can to prevent those already disproportionately impacted from seeing further negative impacts as well as continuing to invest in the longer term, including to prevent the current context jeopardising the sustainability of public services.

Ukraine humanitarian response

122. It is important to set this in the context of our vision for **Wales as a Nation of Sanctuary**, which means that wherever people seeking sanctuary in Wales go, they are met with welcome, understanding and celebration of their unique contribution to society, and are treated with dignity and respect. If funding levels were reduced, or no further funding were to be made available, we would need to begin to implement an exit strategy from the point at which decisions were taken on the draft 2023-24 budget. Officials would continue to work with local authority and third sector partners to increase the rates of move on – but ultimately if transitional accommodation could not be secured within the short window available, significant numbers of Ukrainians would become homeless, triggering the local authority homelessness duty. It is clear that any significant shortfall in funding would potentially trigger further trauma for Ukrainians who have already had to flee a war zone, as well as reputational risk to Welsh Government around potential accusations of reneging on humanitarian commitments.
123. What this means in effect is that WG would be passing the fiscal responsibility for the Ukrainian response onto local government. This would place additional pressures on an already very pressurised and struggling homelessness system,

with local authorities consistently facing over 1,300 people presenting every month in need of temporary accommodation. Local authorities are currently struggling to meet both the capacity requirements and costs associated with this existing demand, and any further increase in presentation numbers would further exacerbate this. Given the highly constrained nature of the property market at this point, and the cost and lead time for developing longer term accommodation, the solutions for local government would be limited and likely similar to the costly accommodation measures that we have been using.

124. The expectation of LAs to meet the costs of supporting Ukrainian people under the homelessness duty would exacerbate the financial pressures that they face. LAs are already forecasting large pressures in 2023-24 (over £0.5bn) and would have to find further cuts in other services, including job losses, to meet housing costs. This is in addition to the reduction in Year 1 tariff and the end of UK Government tariff funding after the first year, meaning that LAs have to continue to wider support services and young people in education and with no additional budget. Housing this number of people in expensive temporary accommodation is likely to be unaffordable for local authorities who may need to consider alternative options for them or others in the wider homelessness system as they prioritise scarce resources. This could undermine and reverse the progress made in homelessness services over the last 3 years and result in large numbers of people being forced to sleep rough or a fall back to the use of unsuitable accommodation solutions such as night-shelters and floor space. This also does not sit easily with our vision for Wales as a Nation of Sanctuary.

Annex A

SOCIAL JUSTICE						
RESOURCE						
Budget Expenditure Line	2022-23 Draft Budget	2022-23 Final Budget	2022-23 1st Supplementary Budget	2023-24 Indicative Plans	Changes	2023-24 Draft Budget
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Basic Income	5,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	2,200	12,200
Financial Inclusion	20,202	125,822	125,822	20,202	18,800	39,002
Digital Inclusion	1,250	1,250	2,000	1,250	0	1,250
Digital Inclusion - Non cash	149	149	149	149	0	149
Supporting Communities	1,483	6,863	6,794	1,483	-250	1,233
International Development	925	1,275	1,275	1,275	0	1,275
Social Partnerships	806	806	886	961	-100	861
Action: Total Supporting Communities	29,815	141,165	141,926	35,320	20,650	55,970
Fire & Rescue Services	8,405	8,405	8,405	8,405	0	8,405
Fire & Rescue Services - Non cash	20	0	0	0	0	0
Fire & Rescue Services - Communication Systems	3,915	3,915	3,915	3,915	-1,640	2,275
Community Fire Safety	848	848	848	848	0	848
Action: Total Fire and Rescue Services and Resilience	13,188	13,168	13,168	13,168	-1,640	11,528
Older People Commissioner	1,589	1,589	1,520	1,589	95	1,684
Older People Commissioner - Non cash	9	9	78	9	0	9
Children's Commissioner	1,580	1,580	1,644	1,580	95	1,675
Children's Commissioner - Non cash	0	0	34	0	52	52
Public Appointments	375	375	375	600	-200	400
Future Generations Commissioner Wales	1,509	1,509	1,509	1,509	171	1,680
Action: Communities	5,062	5,062	5,160	5,287	213	5,500
Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	7,875	7,875	8,006	7,875	130	8,005
Action: Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and	7,875	7,875	8,006	7,875	130	8,005
Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights	12,686	16,886	17,148	17,632	-316	17,316
Chwarae Teg	360	360	360	360	6	366
Action: Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights	13,046	17,246	17,508	17,992	-310	17,682
Advice Services	10,175	11,875	12,831	11,849	-174	11,675
Action: Advice Services	10,175	11,875	12,831	11,849	-174	11,675
Support for the Voluntary Sector and Volunteering	7,494	7,494	7,494	7,494	130	7,624
Action: Support for the Voluntary Sector and Volunteering	7,494	7,494	7,494	7,494	130	7,624
Community Support and Safety	22,625	22,625	22,625	22,625	373	22,998
Action: Community Support and Safety	22,625	22,625	22,625	22,625	373	22,998
Female Offending and Youth Justice Blueprints	1,075	1,075	1,075	1,075	0	1,075
Action: Female Offending and Youth Justice Blueprints	1,075	1,075	1,075	1,075	0	1,075
MEG: SOCIAL JUSTICE	110,355	227,585	229,793	122,685	19,372	142,057

SOCIAL JUSTICE						
CAPITAL						
Budget Expenditure Line	2022-23 Draft Budget	2022-23 Final Budget	2022-23 1st Supplementary Budget	2023-24 Indicative Plans	Changes	2023-24 Draft Budget
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Financial Inclusion	0	1,500	1,500	500	0	500
Financial Inclusion - Repayments	0	-4	-4	-6	0	-6
Community Bank	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	1,500
Supporting Communities	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	1,000
Action: Supporting Communities	2,500	3,996	3,996	2,994	0	2,994
Fire & Rescue Services	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500	0	1,500
Fire & Rescue Services - Communication Systems	210	210	210	210	0	210
Community Fire Safety	900	900	900	900	0	900
Action: Fire and Rescue Services and Resilience	2,110	2,110	2,110	2,610	0	2,610
Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	2,200
Action: Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	2,200
Gypsy Traveller Sites	3,690	3,690	3,690	3,190	0	3,190
Action: Gypsy Traveller Sites	3,690	3,690	3,690	3,190	0	3,190
Community Facilities Programme	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	0	6,500
Action: Community Facilities	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	0	6,500
MEG: SOCIAL JUSTICE	17,000	18,496	18,496	17,494	0	17,494

SOCIAL JUSTICE						
AME - RESOURCE						
Budget Expenditure Line	2022-23 Draft Budget	2022-23 Final Budget	2022-23 1st Supplementary Budget	2023-24 Indicative Plans	Changes	2023-24 Draft Budget
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Fire Service Pensions - AME	28,063	280,663	28,063	26,045	-913	25,132
Action: Fire and Rescue Services and Resilience	28,063	280,663	28,063	26,045	-913	25,132
MEG: SOCIAL JUSTICE	28,063	280,663	28,063	26,045	-913	25,132

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Jane Hutt AS

8 Tachwedd 2022

Cyllideb Ddrafft Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer 2023-24

Annwyl Jane,

I gefnogi ein gwaith craffu ar Gyllideb Ddrafft Llywodraeth Cymru 2023-24, byddem yn gwerthfawrogi gwybodaeth gennych i ategu'r wybodaeth rydym wedi gofyn amdani gan Weinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg a'r Gweinidog Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol.

Byddem yn ddiolchgar iawn pe gallech roi:

- Eich barn gyffredinol ar Gyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24 o safbwynt cydraddoldeb a chyfiawnder cymdeithasol i'r graddau y mae'n ymwneud â phlant a phobl ifanc.
- Eich barn am unrhyw adrannau o'r boblogaeth o blant a phobl ifanc y mae penderfyniadau gwariant o fewn Cyllideb Ddrafft 2023-24 yn arbennig o debygol o effeithio arnynt (e.e. grwpiau sy'n agored i niwed).
- Gwybodaeth am:
 - Sut rydych yn gweithio gyda'r Gweinidog Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol a'i Dirprwyon, a Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg, i sicrhau bod eu cyllidebau yn hybu cydraddoldeb a chyfiawnder cymdeithasol.
 - Sut rydych yn cydlynu mesurau i liniaru Tlodi Plant ar draws y Cabinet, a'ch asesiad o unrhyw gostau sy'n gysylltiedig â datblygu a chyflawni'r Strategaeth Tlodi Plant newydd, a ddisgwyllir yn 2023.
 - Unrhyw drafodaethau rydych wedi'u cael gyda Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg mewn perthynas â dyraniadau ar gyfer:

- effaith tlodi plant ar ganlyniadau addysgol, gan gynnwys y Grant Datblygu O ystyried y bydd gan bwyllgorau mewn rhai o'r meysydd a restrir uchod ddiddordeb hefyd, rydw i wedi anfon copi at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol. Disgyblion;
 - y gwariant arfaethedig ar gyfer cyflawni amcan Llywodraeth Cymru i leihau bylchau cyrhaeddiad ar draws pob oedran;
 - cynhwysiant digidol, ac unrhyw asesiad o'r sut mae pandemig COVID-19 a'r defnydd cysylltiedig o dechnoleg wedi arwain at ddibyniaeth gynyddol ar ddysgwyr yn defnyddio eu dyfeisiau digidol eu hunain ac unrhyw gostau a ddyrannwyd i liniaru hyn;
 - cynhwysiant ariannol a'i gysylltiad â'r cwricwlwm newydd; a
 - ehangu mynediad at addysg uwch ymhlith pobl ifanc o gefndiroedd difreintiedig a chefnogi myfyrwyr tra ydynt yn y brifysgol i hybu cyfiawnder cymdeithasol a symudedd cymdeithasol.
- o Dyraniadau ar gyfer gwaith swyddfa'r Comisiynydd Plant.

Byddwn yn ddiolchgar o gael y wybodaeth ysgrifenedig erbyn 16 Rhagfyr 2022 fan bellaf. Nodaf fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn bwriadu cyhoeddi'r Gyllideb Ddrafft ar 13 Rhagfyr 2022. Cysylltwch â'm Clerc os ydych yn pryderu na fyddwch yn gallu anfon y wybodaeth erbyn y dyddiad cau arfaethedig o ystyried amserlen y gyllideb.

O ystyried y bydd gan bwyllgorau mewn rhai o'r meysydd a restrir uchod ddiddordeb hefyd, rydw i wedi anfon copi at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol.

Yn gywir



Jayne Bryant AS

Cadeirydd

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Children, Young People and Education Committee

Title: Scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget 2023-24

Views on the Draft Budget

1. As a Welsh Government, we will continue to work to prioritise our budgets to shield the most vulnerable and maintain our commitment to create a stronger, fairer and greener Wales as we prepare our draft Budget 2023-24. There is no doubt, however, that this has been a challenging budget, the most challenging since devolution.
2. We have published our Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment (SIIA) of the Draft Budget which outlines the contextual evidence that has supported our spending decisions, including those related to children and young people. The SIIA is just one of a suite of documents published as part of our Draft Budget, with the impact of spending decisions outlined as part of the main narrative in chapter four, complemented by the SIIA at Annex A. Following publication of the Draft Budget we will publish an extensive summary of all Ministers' written evidence to Senedd scrutiny committees on allocations within each MEG; this will provide a more detailed account as to how Draft Budget decisions have impacted on different groups.
3. The Budget Improvement Impact Advisory Group (BIAG) formerly the Budget Advisory Group Equality (BAGE), was set up in February 2022. The role of the Group is to provide advice, feedback and evidence from an equalities and inclusion perspective to ensure that budget and tax processes improve over the longer term, to better align funding to outcomes including. The Group is primarily intended to support delivery of the Welsh Government Budget Improvement Plan (BIP). The BIP is committed to exploring how we can better improve our approach to assessing the impact of Budget decisions. We are currently working with Children in Wales, Young Wales Project Board to co-produce a Young Person's version of the BIP which will be published in December 2023.
4. People across Wales are facing an uncertain future as a result of this unprecedented cost-of-living crisis. Families with children are more likely to be impacted than those without.
5. Those who will be most affected will be children from a household that has protected characteristics:
 - This includes children and young people who are disabled or live in a household with a disabled person
 - Black, Asian or minority ethnic children
 - Children in single parent households
6. In addition, families that are more at risk from the cost of living crisis include:
 - Households where the children are young
 - Children who live in larger families where there are more children
7. As part of this year's 2023-24 Draft Budget a number of allocations have been made respect relating to Children and Young People. This includes continuing our

commitment to support the Pupil Deprivation Grant with an additional allocation of £9m in 2023-24. This is designed to help children and young people from lower income households and looked after children overcome the additional barriers that prevent them from achieving their full potential.

8. Schools in Wales are directly funded by local authorities – funding for schools is mainly provided through the local government settlement. As a result of the decisions we are taking, we are providing an additional £227m in 2023-24 and £268m in 2024-25 to the local government settlement which will include support for schools; this builds on the £0.75bn we outlined up to 2024-25 as part of our 2022 – 2025 Spending Review.
9. In addition to funding we are providing for schools via the Local Government Settlement, we are providing extra funding through Education budgets with an additional £5.5m to support the continuation of the Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards (RRRS) Programme in line with our Programme for Government commitment and a further £4.5m to support implementation of the Additional Learning Needs Act as part of our long-term programme of education reform. In addition, we are providing an additional £9m to support post-16 provision, including a review of Renew and Reform funding and other distinct pressures for school sixth form and FE sector.
10. We have also been able to make an allocation of £18.8m for the Discretionary Assistance Scheme and an allocation of £2.2m for the Basic Income Pilot. Data suggests that 50% of DAF payments are made to households with children. The additional support will ensure that this funding continues to be in place when individuals and families across Wales are facing unprecedented costs for the most basic of things, such as food and fuel. The basic income pilot is a radical intervention, supporting a group of young care leavers with an income of £1,600 (before tax) every month. We continue to support the pilot, which will run for the next two years and are allocating an additional £2.2m in 2023-24.

Working across Cabinet to ensure budget advance equality and social justice

11. As a Cabinet we are committed to promoting equality and social justice; these issues are considered through the cost-of-living Cabinet Sub-Committee as well as the Programme for Government Cabinet Sub-Committee.
12. In March this year, I took a paper to Cabinet on cross-government measures for tackling poverty. My cabinet colleagues gave their unequivocal support. I held a series of follow up bilateral meetings to discuss what more we can do across government to tackle poverty and inequality. The Minister for Education and Welsh Language presented at the most recent Tackling Poverty and Cost of living Summit in November and the Minister for Climate Change and Minister for Finance and Local Government have also contributed at the Summits we have held in 2022. The Deputy Minister and Social Services and I have held a number of joint meetings with stakeholders as our commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people are inextricably linked.

Child Poverty

13. Ministers are committed to achieving the objectives which focus on reducing the number of children living in workless households, increasing the skills of parents and

young people, reducing inequalities in education, health, and economic outcomes, creating a strong economy and labour market and action to increase household income.

14. As you are aware, the Cost of Living Cabinet Sub-committee, which is chaired by the First Minister, provides strategic direction to our response to the cost of living crisis. The Committee is focusing Welsh Government efforts, and those of our partners, in improving outcomes for low income households and ensuring a joined-up approach across portfolios.
15. Our Child Poverty Strategy sets out the Welsh Government's objectives for tackling child poverty through a focus on what we know works well using the levers available.
16. We will report on progress in achieving our child poverty objectives before the new year. I have given a commitment to refresh the current strategy. While the objectives remain relevant, the strategy itself does not recognise the impact of the pandemic, our exit from the EU or the cost of living crisis on poverty.
17. The new strategy will set out the collective approach we are taking as a Government to tackle child poverty. I will be taking a paper to Cabinet in January which will provide an opportunity to discuss our approach further.
18. The costs associated with developing the refreshed strategy will be minimal. They will relate to stakeholder engagement and steps taken to ensure that stakeholders and organisations, people and communities and children and young people can have their say. Funding will be allocated to support us to take steps to ensure that the voices of those most disadvantaged by poverty, have their voices heard.

Educational outcomes, Pupil Development Grant and attainment gaps

19. Countering the effects of poverty on children and young people's attainment is central to our flagship Pupil Development Grant (PDG). Year on year we have extended the PDG to reflect the increase in eFSM learners, with funding for 2022-23 at over £130m. This includes the Early Years PDG (EYPDG).
20. The current cost of living crisis and economic downturn is having an impact on lower income households. Building on the additional £20m allocated as part of last year's Spending Review, we are allocating a further £9m to the PDG from 2023-24 to support our most economically vulnerable learners.
21. We continue to work closely with PDG regional representatives to identify those areas where funding can have most impact, particularly in the context of the recommendations from the Review of School Spending in Wales report; prioritising additional funding for more deprived schools; and working with local authorities on ensuring more consistent and transparent school funding formulae.
22. We have made it clear that tackling the impact of poverty on attainment is at the heart of our national mission in education. The PDG has a key part to play in achieving this and we will build upon existing effective practice by ensuring that we target the funding as well as possible. Whilst ultimately the use of the PDG should be decided by schools, these decisions need to be more strategically influenced, better grounded in evidence and rigorously monitored for impact. To that end, we

have updated the terms and conditions of the grant and will be producing new guidance for schools on the use of the PDG working closely with the Education Endowment Foundation.

23. We are working with Bangor University who are undertaking research on the Effective Targeting of School Deprivation Funding in Wales. The key aims of the research project are to:
- Review how PDG is used in Wales and how similar grants are used in other parts of the UK.
 - Review the main indicators schools use to target funds and design interventions.
 - Evaluate how reporting impacts on learners, school staff and learner outcomes.
 - Review and make recommendations on appropriate measures and evidence of outcomes.
 - Identify what further work is required to ensure future policy making, resource allocation and targeting of resources at school level are fully optimised and evidence based.
24. Looked After Children are among our most vulnerable children and young people. In addition to support via the PDG, since 2021-22 we have provided start-up grant funding to a number of local authorities across Wales to implement a Virtual Schools model which aims to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of both looked after children and previously looked after children. The budget for 2022-23 is £1.1m and this is an ongoing pilot which will continue into its final year in 2023-24.
25. We have identified a small group of leaders to work as Attainment Champions who will provide focused peer to peer support to headteachers in schools involved in the pilot, attend round table discussions on lessons learnt, provide insights on their experience and advocate for this important policy area. This is a supportive and self-selecting pilot, working with headteachers who have demonstrated sustained progress addressing the impact of poverty on educational attainment, have experience of mentoring and capacity building and insight into the increasing pressures of the cost of living on parents and families. The pilot will see system leadership in action and is focussed on what we can learn about this supportive approach to inform future policy and practice. The pilot is being delivered by the National Academy for Educational Leadership and we are providing £157,600 for this work
26. The Programme for Government 2021-2026 commits the Welsh Government to: *Invest in the learning environment of Community Focused Schools, co-locating key services, and securing stronger engagement with parents and carers outside traditional hours.* This is a key part of delivering educational equality through our policy for tackling the impact of poverty on educational attainment. It is equally part of our aim to build communities that are thriving, empowered, and connected.
27. Our ambition is for all schools in Wales to be Community Focused Schools - responding to the needs of their community, building a strong partnership with families, and collaborating effectively with other services.
28. In 2022-23 we have invested:
- £3.84m in increasing the number of family engagement officers employed by schools, with part of their role to be focused on improving pupil attendance;
 - £660k to trial the appointment of community focused schools managers; and

- £20m of capital investment to allow schools to develop further as community assets, making the school more accessible and open to its local community.

Minority Ethnic, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Grant (MEGRT)

29. We understand the particular language and cultural barriers children from ethnic minority and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds can face, which is why it is crucial they receive support to reach their full potential.
30. We have provided a total of £11m to local authorities in 2022-23 via the Minority Ethnic, Gypsy, Roma Traveller (MEGRT) grant to fund local authority support services, with funding being maintained for 2023-24. This funding supports the educational needs of all children and young people from ethnic minority communities, including Refugees and Asylum Seekers. This funding recognises the important role local authority services provide in supporting children and young people, and the sustained increase in numbers of minority ethnic learners with English or Welsh as an additional language, who need support.

Digital Inclusion in schools

31. As part of our 'Stay safe. Stay learning' programme, Wales was well positioned to support all learners with remote learning and quickly established support for digitally excluded learners in maintained schools through the foundations established by the Hwb EdTech programme.
32. The Education Policy Institute recognised the Welsh Governments digital strategy, existing infrastructure and collaboration with local authorities as key enablers for schools across Wales to deliver digital learning, particularly during the pandemic.
33. Digital equity is of paramount importance and the Welsh Government is committed to identifying new opportunities to support schools and local authorities to improve standards and reduce the impact of education on households, such as providing the all Wales Microsoft Education licensing agreement to allow all learners and teachers to download Microsoft Office at home **for free**.
34. Welsh Ministers are also fully committed to maintaining support for the Hwb EdTech programme to ensure that all maintained schools have equitable access to online tools and resources which can be accessed anytime, anywhere. The Welsh Government has invested over £180 million, including a further £10million this financial year, to future proof education technology infrastructure; provided over 230,000 end user devices, with significant work underway to refresh the teaching and learning tools and peripherals across Wales to help deliver the Curriculum for Wales.
35. Schools across Wales can also benefit from the Hwb digital learning platform, which is helping to improve the use of digital technology for teaching and learning. Hwb provides all learners and teachers in maintained schools, as well as other education stakeholders, such as trainee and supply teachers, with access to a range of bilingual digital infrastructure, tools and resources that are helping to transform digital teaching and learning in Wales. The Hwb digital learning platform has been designed to ensure the resources, tools and services can be accessed anywhere, anytime from an internet connected device.

36. Through these initiatives the Welsh Government have provided national foundations capable of supporting and delivering real transformation to the Education sector. It also ensures digital is at the heart of the Curriculum for Wales and provides support to schools to inspire our teachers and learners to create a culture which embeds digital practices.

Financial inclusion and its link with the new curriculum

37. Financial Inclusion and the Financial Wellbeing Delivery Plan for Wales aligns closely with the new curriculum in delivering learning for children from 3 to 16 years of age.

38. [The Delivery Plan for Wales](#) provides activities that aims to help 90,000 more children and young people in Wales getting a meaningful financial education and was co-produced by Welsh Government and Money and Pensions Service (MaPS).

39. Financial education is any activity that helps children and young people develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need to manage their money well in later life. Financial education has very strong links to most aspects of future/adult financial wellbeing. The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 gives Wales the ambition, permission, and legal obligation to improve social, cultural, environmental, and economic wellbeing.

40. The following actions are contained in the Financial Foundations section of the Plan:

- supporting credit unions to provide school savings schemes to increase the number of school-age children saving regularly supporting financial resilience. Welsh Government is currently supporting four credit unions to deliver school savers projects within Merthyr Tydfil, Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot, Cardiff, and Bridgend. Different delivery methods are used – some schemes are children led maximising the learning opportunities, some teacher/volunteer led and others run by a dedicated school's officer;
- delivers the bilingual Your Money Matters textbook to all secondary schools in Wales and will evaluate its impact; and
- Financial education in the home, in government training programmes and in other youth settings is also a priority. Talk, Learn, Do (TLD) was developed and piloted in Wales. It helps parents/carers have conversations with children about money with the aim of improving financial capability. The TLD programme will also be expanded to include content for teenagers and young people, enabling parents of older children to support their transition into adulthood. Digitise Talk, Learn, Do (TLD) content Scope and engage a digital agency to create and publish TLD content digitally.

41. The teacher training pathfinder being delivered by Young Money in partnership with the Welsh Government addresses the limited support for teachers in delivering financial education. The aim is to continue to promote the learning in Wales and

encourage more uptake for teachers to enhance teacher knowledge, skills, and confidence in teaching about money, and improve young people's financial capability. Findings from the Wales pathfinder were published in Spring 2022 with, E-Learning being delivered in Wales (research evaluation <https://maps.org.uk/2022/05/11/financial-education-professional-learning-for-teachers-in-wales-pathfinder-evaluation/>)

42. The aim is to launch in other three nations by the end of 2022, with teacher training to commence in Spring 2023, ready for evaluation and next steps planning by Autumn 2024.
43. Officials are working with the MaPS and the steering group to continually monitor the roll out of these actions given the landscape change post Covid, and in the context of the cost-of-living crisis.
44. The Delivery Plan is supported with input from over 90 stakeholders in Wales including banks, building societies, educational institutions, government departments and this joint working with MaPS is vital to its success. We continue to work in partnership on this delivery.

Higher education

45. We provide the most progressive student finance system in the UK by providing living costs grants to support to those who need it most. The highest levels of grant are targeted to those students from households with the lowest incomes. Ensuring all eligible students have access to the same maximum amount of funding creates parity of opportunity for Welsh students.
46. Support is available to those wishing to study a designated higher education course at a university or further education institute in the UK and covers study at undergraduate through to postgraduate.
47. We provide additional support for disabled students to ensure they benefit from the same higher education opportunities and study experiences as their non-disabled peers. A non-repayable grant of over £32,000 per academic year is available for non-medical help, mobility assistance, equipment and where necessary, upgrades to living accommodation. The grant is non-means tested and available to eligible undergraduate, postgraduate, full-time, part-time and distance learning students without reduction; support is based on the student's needs.
48. Eligible care leavers aged under 25 are not means tested and automatically receive the maximum maintenance grant available. Universities in Wales also support care leavers through various projects, bursaries, and work with specialist charities. This work is expected to continue.
49. Welsh Government listened to young carers and has worked with the Student Loans Company to improve guidance to practitioners. As a result, greater discretion in attendance management for carers was agreed, ensuring they were not unnecessarily penalised for absences while caring.

50. We also have grants available for those in higher education with caring responsibilities, including a Childcare Grant, a Parents' Learning Allowance and an Adult Dependents' Grant.
51. Students with dependants can also apply for additional means-tested grants (known as Grants for Dependants) to support them with any additional costs they incur. This includes childcare. Furthermore, in academic year 2022/23, we removed the restriction preventing students on distance learning courses accessing these grants in recognition of the increase in blended learning and students seeking part-time study to help balance study and existing commitments. This is now available to new and continuing students.
52. We recognise that many students studying in Wales will not have access to our generous package of student support but the funding we have provided, to bolster hardship funds and mental health services and other support during the pandemic, and other emergency support being offered to students during the current crisis is available to all students, including our international students.
53. Widening access to higher education and beyond makes a significant contribution to society and the economy of Wales, supports our efforts to tackle inequality, social justice, social mobility, economic upskilling and institutions' civic mission activities such as working with schools.
54. HEFCW's Widening Access Programme of Action sets out how it delivers its approach to widening access under a number of strategic themes. Carers feature as an under-represented cohort and one of HEFCW's strategic priorities is to: 'prioritise carers, looked after children and care leavers in Widening Access strategy development and implementation'. Actions towards this priority include:
- Reaching Wider Programme strategies and plans to demonstrate partnership working with FE, schools and other organisations to prioritise carers, looked after children and care leaver activities; and
 - publish fee and access plan guidance to encourage support for carers, looked after children and care leavers.
55. The Programme of Action is supported by HEFCW's Reaching Wider Programme (RWP). By working with priority schools, colleges and communities the RWP aims to increase higher education participation from priority groups and communities in Wales by raising educational aspirations and skills and creating innovative study opportunities and learning pathways to higher education.
56. Over the current strategy period (2022/23 to 2024/25) HEFCW plan to invest £2m annually to support RW Partnership strategies. In addition, higher education institutions fund their contribution to the RW Programme through fee and access plan investment of £1.7m annually, giving a total investment over the period of £3.7m annually from 2022/23.
57. The aim of the programme is to engage with primary and secondary schools; young people up to the age of 18; adults aged 21 and over with no HE qualifications, from the bottom two quintiles of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation. The project also works with care experienced individuals and carers; people with disabilities; and people from ethnic minority backgrounds to help reduce barriers to education faced by these groups.

58. HEFCW have been remitted to continue to support institutions in achieving rapid and sustained progress in tackling racism and improving the experience of staff and students in HE regardless of their racial background. This includes institutions working towards the achievement of a charter mark as a demonstration of their commitment to eradicating racism and racial inequality at all levels within the sector
59. HEFCW has allocated funding for universities in Wales to support race equality in higher education. The purpose of the funding is to prevent inequality, tackle anti-racism, support culture change and contribute to delivering the Welsh Government's Anti-racism Wales action plan.
60. Our Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan, which was published following extensive consultation, includes specific actions for HE. The goals and actions we have set for HE build on the good work already being done within the sector and support their work to improve the experience of staff and students in HE regardless of their racial background.
61. All universities in Wales have hardship funds in place to support students in financial difficulty. Information about what support is available is provided on their websites and promoted through a range of channels.
62. Our universities have been taking steps to support their staff and students in dealing with the impacts of increased cost of living and other financial pressures. Measures being put in place include increased hardship funds, means-tested bursary schemes, short-term loans and crisis grants; warm study spaces; free or low-cost food and hot meals; on campus food banks; free period products; free online money and financial advice; free access to sporting and other activities; as well as increased mileage allowances for students on placements.
63. The steps being taking by our institutions, in addition to supporting their mental health and well-being, will help students to stay well and continue to engage with their studies, ensuring they able to succeed and achieve their ambitions and get the most out of their university experience.
64. Recognising the particular difficulties and challenges posed by the pandemic we allocated additional funding of £50m to HEFCW in 2020-21 to bolster support for students, particularly those facing financial, emotional or mental health difficulties. £10m was provided specifically for student mental health and well-being services and £40m to boost support for students facing financial hardship.

Allocations for the work of the office of the Children's Commissioner

65. Within a very challenging financial context, we are pleased to be able to provide the Children's Commissioner for Wales with an uplift to her budget.
66. This will enable the Children's Commissioner to carry out her important work as an independent human rights organisation in support of children's rights and entitlements and enabling their voices to be heard.

67. This funding will enable the new Commissioner to plan her work in line with the priorities shared with her by children and young people via her Ambitions for Wales survey. The results of that survey will be published in the new year. From the Committee's recent scrutiny of the Commissioner's Annual Report, the Committee is already aware of some of those concerns which are centred on children having enough money for the things they need.
68. We are pleased to be able to maintain the financial position of the Commissioner's office so that it can continue with its casework, participation activity, training and supporting the needs of all children in Wales.