

Jane Hutt MS

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip
Welsh Government

Dear Jane,

27 November 2025

Follow-up points to the scrutiny session on the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2026-27

Thank you for giving evidence on the above topic at our meeting on 24 November 2025. Members were grateful to you for your evidence. During the session there were several areas where you indicated you would be willing to provide more detail after the session. A list of the information that would welcome from you is provided below (please note that paragraph references are included for context and taken from the Record of Proceedings.) Please could you provide the following:

- More detail on the impact of credit unions including their overall effectiveness and role in delivering social justice outcomes.
- You said that Emergency Assistance Payments made through the Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) will be uplifted by 8.1% from 1 January 2026 (paragraph 32). We would be grateful for clarification on whether additional funding will be made available to cover this uplift, or whether it will be met from within existing funds.
- More detail on the feedback received which has informed the decision to switch from air fryers to electric cookers.
- You highlighted help to unlock over £10 million of dormant trusts and foundations, and a pot of £7.5 million. We would be grateful for further clarification about this fund, including how it will be distributed (paragraph 55).
- You referred to a helpline for people to apply for the baby bundles. We would be grateful for clarification on whether eligible individuals will be automatically registered for the scheme via their midwife (Paragraph 73).



- An outline of specific funding allocated for implementation of the Disabled Rights Action Plan (Paragraph 106).
- Confirmation of when the equalities legal service will be operational (Paragraphs 109 – 111).
- More detail on any funding for children and specialist services for children in the context of the VAWDASV budget (Paragraphs 134-135).
- You stated that there had been an increase in funding for community cohesion coordinator of 25% to £1.6 million for this financial year. We would welcome clarification on how the 25% figure was arrived at (Paragraph 121).
- You agreed to provide more detail on what happened to the £0.7 million originally allocated to the welcome tickets scheme (Paragraph 128-129).
- You agreed to provide further clarity on the breakdown of the 236 pitches figure including the proportion that are complete; in development and proposed. The Committee would also appreciate an exact geographical breakdown if possible including the names of any local authorities that have not yet submitted proposals for a pitch as required under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (as per paragraphs 152 – 167)

Thank you again for your evidence and for your constructive engagement with the Committee during our scrutiny of the Draft Budget.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

Senedd Cymru

Dyddiad | Date: 1 January 2000

Pwnc | Subject: Only 1 subject line with a heading

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.