

Concise Minutes – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue: **Hybrid – Committee room 5 Tŷ Hywel and video conference via Zoom**

Meeting date: Thursday, 18 September 2025

Meeting time: 10.00 – 13.40

This meeting can be viewed on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/15354>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Peredur Owen Griffiths MS (Chair) Mike Hedges MS Sam Rowlands MS
Witnesses:	Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales, Audit Wales Dr Ian Rees, Chair of the Wales Audit Office Board, Audit Wales Ann-Marie Harkin, Executive Director for Audit Services, Audit Wales Kevin Thomas, Executive Director for Corporate Services, Audit Wales Jane Hutt MS, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip Amira Evans, Head of Equalities, Welsh Government Bethany Thomas, British Sign Language Policy Manager, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Owain Roberts (Clerk)



	Georgina Owen (Second Clerk) Mike Lewis (Deputy Clerk) Martin Jennings (Researcher) Peter Davies (Researcher) Christian Tipples (Researcher) Ben Harris (Legal Adviser)
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Registration

Private pre-meeting

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the Finance Committee.

1.2 Apologies were received from Rhianon Passmore MS. There was no substitute for Rhianon Passmore MS.

1.3 Members declared the following relevant interests under Standing Order 17.24A:

- Mike Hedges MS declared that he has a sister who is profoundly hard of hearing and a user of British Sign Language. He also declared that he has worked on the development of the Bill alongside the Member in charge.

2 Paper(s) to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

- 2.1 PTN 1 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language:
Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) – 8 July 2025
- 2.2 PTN 2– Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs: Inter–Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC) – 14 July
2025
- 2.3 PTN 3 – Letter from the First Minister of Wales: Inter–Institutional Relations
Agreement: 43rd British–Irish Council Summit – 22 July 2025
- 2.4 PTN 4 – Women’s Equality Network (WEN) Wales: Briefing – New research on the
childcare needs of families in Wales – July 2025
- 2.5 PTN 5 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language:
Consultation on reviewing the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013 – 11 July 2025
- 2.6 PTN 6 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language:
Financial information for Directly Funded Bodies to consider in their budget
planning – 11 July 2025
- 2.7 PTN 7 – Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs: Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill – Stage 4 – 11
July 2025
- 2.8 PTN 8 – Letter from the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA):
Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill – 15 July 2025
- 2.9 PTN 9 – Letter from the Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee to
the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA): Homelessness and Social
Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill – 18 July 2025
- 2.10 PTN 10 – Letter from the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA):
Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill – 1 August 2025

- 2.11 PTN 11 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government:
Additional information on the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales)
Bill – 27 August 2025**
- 2.12 PTN 12 – Letter from the Senedd Commission: Update to recommendations made
in the Committee's report on the Scrutiny of the Senedd Commission Draft Budget
2025–26 – 15 July 2025**
- 2.13 PTN 13 – Letter from Audit Wales: Notification of audit deadline position – Powys
Teaching Health Board – 21 July 2025**
- 2.14 PTN 14 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language:
Office for National Statistics and the Census 2031 – 4 August 2025**
- 2.15 PTN 15 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language:
Barnett formula consequentials from the UK Spending Review (11 June) – 5 August
2025**
- 2.16 PTN 16 – Welsh Government response to the Committee's report on the First
Supplementary Budget 2025–26 – 18 August 2025**
- 2.17 PTN 17 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language:
Welsh Rates of Income Tax – Outturn Statistics 2023–24 – 21 August 2025**
- 2.18 PTN 18 – Additional information from National Energy Action relating to fuel
poverty in Wales – 7 August 2025**
- 2.19 PTN 19 – Letter from the Chair of the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for
Finance: Northern Ireland Fiscal Council Bill – 22 July 2025**
- 2.20 PTN 20 – Letter to the Chair of the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for
Finance: Northern Ireland Fiscal Council Bill – 8 September 2025**

**2.21 PTN 21 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning:
Inter-Ministerial Group for Business and Industry (IMG) – 2 September 2025**

**2.22 PTN 22 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning:
Inter-Ministerial Group for Business and Industry – 10 September 2025**

**2.23 PTN 23 – Letter from Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales: Response
to the Committee's report on the Bus Services (Wales) Bill – 8 September 2025**

3 Audit Wales – Scrutiny of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024–25 and the Annual Plan 2025–26: Evidence session

3.1 The Committee took evidence on Audit Wales's Annual Report and Accounts 2024–25 and the Annual Plan 2025–26 from Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales, Audit Wales; Dr Ian Rees, Chair of the Wales Audit Office, Audit Wales; Kevin Thomas, Executive Director of Corporate Services, Audit Wales; and Ann-Marie Harkin, Executive Director for Audit Services, Audit Wales.

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from items 5 to 11 and 13; and the start of the meeting on 24 September 2025

4.1 The motion was agreed.

5 Audit Wales – Scrutiny of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024–25 and the Annual Plan 2025–26: Consideration of evidence

5.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.

6 Appointment of the Auditor General for Wales: Update

6.1 The Committee considered the documents in relation to the appointment of the Auditor General for Wales and agreed the actions included within the cover paper.

7 Chair's Forum – Consultation: Reviewing Committee Effectiveness in the Sixth Senedd

7.1 The Committee considered the cover paper and the Llywydd's letter and agreed to submit a response to the Chairs' Forum consultation on Reviewing Committee Effectiveness.

8 Changes to the Budget Process Protocol and related budgetary procedures: Update

8.1 The Committee considered the cover paper and the Cabinet Secretary's letter in relation to the Budget Process Protocol and related budgetary procedures, and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary and the Directly Funded Bodies.

9 Consideration of Forward Work Programme

9.1 The Committee considered its Forward Work Programme.

10 Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2026–27: Approach to scrutiny

10.1 The Committee considered the cover paper on the approach to Draft Budget scrutiny 2026–27 and agreed the action points within it.

11 Financial implications of the Planning (Wales) Bill and the Planning (Consequential Provisions) (Wales) Bill

11.1 The Committee considered the cover paper in relation to the Bills and agreed to write to the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery with specific questions.

Break

Public

12 Financial implications of the British Sign Language (Wales) Bill: Evidence session

12.1 The Committee took evidence on the Financial implications of the British Sign Language (Wales) Bill from Jane Hutt MS, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip; Amira Evans, Head of Equalities, Welsh Government; and Bethany Thomas, British Sign Language Policy Manager, Welsh Government.

Private

13 Financial implications of the British Sign Language (Wales) Bill: Consideration of evidence

13.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.