

Agenda – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: Thursday, 14 July 2016

Meeting time: 09.15

For further information contact:

Bethan Davies

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6372

SeneddFinance@assembly.wales

Private pre-meeting

(09.15–09.30)

1 Consideration of legal advice in relation to Section 7, Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013

(09.30–09.45)

(Pages 1 – 3)

Legal brief – Section 7, Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013

2 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09.45)

3 Papers to note

(09.45)

(Pages 4 – 5)

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government to the Chair – 8 July 2016

(Pages 6 – 7)

4 Consideration of Section 7, Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013

(09.45–10.00)

(Page 8)

Claire Clancy – Chief Executive and Clerk to the National Assembly for Wales

Matthew Richards – Senior Legal Adviser, National Assembly for Wales

Paper 1 – Consideration of Section 7, Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013



5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

(10.00)

Items 6, 7, 8 and 9

6 Briefing on the Land Transaction Tax Bill

(10.00–11.30)

Georgina Haarhoff – Head of Tax Policy and Legislation, Welsh Government

Repa Antonio – Land Transaction Tax Project Manager, Welsh Government

Andrew Hewitt – Land Transaction Tax Policy Manager, Welsh Government

Sean Bradley – Senior Lawyer, Welsh Government

7 Consideration of the approach to scrutiny of the draft budget

(11.30–11.45)

(Pages 9 – 23)

Paper 2 – Committee approach to scrutiny of the draft budget

8 Consideration of provisional Autumn Term work programme

(11.45–12.00)

(Pages 24 – 26)

Paper 3 – Cover paper to the provisional work programme

Paper 4 – Provisional Autumn Term committee work programme

9 Consideration of draft letter to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee in relation to the Wales Bill

(12.00–12.15)

(Pages 27 – 31)

Paper 5 – Draft letter to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee in relation to the Wales Bill

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Agenda Item 3

Concise Minutes – Finance Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: Wednesday, 6 July 2016

Meeting time: 09.30 – 11.50

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/3659>

Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	Simon Thomas AM (Chair) Mike Hedges AM Steffan Lewis AM Eluned Morgan AM Nick Ramsay AM Mark Reckless AM David Rees AM
Witnesses:	Georgina Haarhoff, Welsh Government Ed Sherriff, Welsh Government Richard Clarke, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Bethan Davies (Clerk) Gerallt Roberts (Deputy Clerk) Christian Tipples (Researcher) Joanest Varney-Jackson (Legal Adviser)



1 Introductions, Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed members of the Committee to the meeting.

1.2 The Chair welcomed David Rees AM and Steffan Lewis AM as new members of the Committee.

2 Papers to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

3 Consideration of the financial implications of the Wales Bill

3.1 Members discussed the financial implications of the provisions in the UK Government's Wales Bill.

3.2 Members considered the Llywydd's amendments to the Bill and agreed to write to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee with their view on the Bill.

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting and from the whole of the meeting on 14 July 2016

4.1 The motion was agreed.

5 Briefing on tax devolution

5.1 Members received a briefing on tax devolution in Wales from: Georgina Haarhoff – Head of Tax Policy and Legislation, Welsh Government, Ed Sherriff – Head of Fiscal Strategy, Welsh Government, and Richard Clarke – Operations Policy Manager, Welsh Government.

6 Welsh Government First Supplementary Budget 2016–17: Consideration of draft report

6.1 Members agreed the draft report with minor changes.

7 Committee responsibilities and early business

7.1 The Committee considered its items of early business, and discussed proposals for future inquiries.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref MA - P/MD/5775/16

Simon Thomas AM,
Chair, Finance Committee,
The National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

8 July 2016

Dear Simon

I welcomed the opportunity to attend Finance Committee on 28 June to support your scrutiny of the First Supplementary Budget 2016-17.

During that session we discussed the £1.5m business rate relief scheme for the Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone, which was announced by the previous Government. I said I would follow up in writing regarding the evidence on the number of jobs which would be created through the scheme.

Enterprise Zones and Business Rate schemes

Evidence gathered from businesses across the Enterprise Zones in Wales shows business rates to be amongst the most commonly cited barriers to achieving business objectives.

Welsh Government does not monitor data on jobs created for the Enterprise Zone Business Rates Scheme in isolation. We do monitor outputs achieved against a number of key performance indicators which reflect the breadth of support provided in the Zones. The impact of business rates relief across the UK, in general, is not measured through numbers of jobs created or supported.

Over four financial years, the Enterprise Zone Business Rates Scheme has offered more than £9 million in support to over 200 businesses. Although it is too early to comment upon the success of the business rate scheme in the Port Talbot Enterprise Zone, estimates suggest that the Scheme could support up to 60 businesses during 2016-17.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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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.

More broadly, the Welsh Government regularly reports against jobs supported and other key performance indicators in our Enterprise Zones as a means of demonstrating progress. Such data is published at: <http://gov.wales/topics/businessandconomy/growing-the-economy/enterprisezones/?lang=en> and performance data for 2015-16 financial year will be published shortly.

I hope this information is helpful in completing your scrutiny of this budget.

Yours sincerely

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

Mark Drakeford AM/AC

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

Agenda Item 4

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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Agenda Item 8

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