

Equality and Human Rights Commission submission to the Finance Committee's consultation to inform scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget Proposals 2018-19

September 2017

We welcome the opportunity to provide advice to inform the Committee's scrutiny of the Welsh Government's 2018-19 draft budget proposals.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission regulates the Public Sector Equality Duty and Specific Duties in Wales. The duties require the Welsh Government to assess the likely equality impacts of proposed policies and practices, such as the setting of its budget.

In considering the Welsh Government's budget, we would welcome the Committee scrutinising the way in which equality impacts have been assessed, and what measures have been taken as a result. In particular, the Committee should consider whether an Equality Impact Assessment:

- assesses the cumulative effects of budgetary decisions
- identifies how its decisions impact on groups facing socio-economic disadvantage
- examines the impact on people with protected characteristics of all decisions that have strategic importance. This activity needs to take place before final decisions.

In addition, the Commission's [Is Wales Fairer? report](#) has informed the [Welsh Government's Equality Objectives 2016 – 2020](#). Is Wales Fairer? identified seven key equality and human rights challenges ([see p.5 of the report](#)) that need to be addressed in Wales. The Committee should consider how well the budget allocations address the challenges and objectives outlined.

About the Equality and Human Rights Commission

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is a statutory body established under the Equality Act 2006. It operates independently to encourage equality and diversity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, and protect and promote human rights. It contributes to making and keeping Britain a fair society in which everyone, regardless of background, has an equal opportunity to fulfil their potential. The Commission enforces equality legislation on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. It encourages compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998 and is accredited by the UN as an 'A status' National Human Rights Institution. Find out more about the Commission's work at: www.equalityhumanrights.com