

Finance Committee  
The National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Committee Members,

### **Inquiry: Welsh Government Draft Budget Proposals 2016-17**

Chwarae Teg works to build a Wales where women achieve and prosper. We do this by working with women to broaden horizons and build confidence and skills; working with employers to create modern workplaces that are successful by harnessing everyone's contribution; and working with influencers, educators and decision makers to build a society that values, supports and benefits women and men equally.

In response to the above inquiry we wanted to highlight a few key areas for consideration during the scrutiny of the draft budget and future budget development.

#### 1. Impact assessment

- 1.1. The Welsh Government's continued commitment to equality impact assessments is to be commended. We were pleased to see that an impact assessment was still carried out despite the tight timescales for the budget process as a result of a delayed CSR.
- 1.2. However, we believe that the Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment (SIIP) that accompanies the 2016-17 draft budget could be more comprehensive. The level of detail suggests that the timescales have had a negative impact on the assessment process and as a result there is less in-depth analysis of how the spending decisions in the draft budget will affect different groups, particularly decisions that may have a negative impact.
- 1.3. Impact assessments should be a crucial tool to help the scrutiny process. We have concerns that the SIIP in its current form is not comprehensive enough to effectively fulfil this role.

#### 2. Local Government cuts

- 2.1. The budget sees further cuts to local government budgets. As we highlighted last year, this has the potential to impact on women more heavily than men if it translates into cuts in services and job losses from within local authorities

