



Arbenigwyr mewn Busnes
Experts in Business

Finance Committee
Welsh Government Draft Budget Proposals 2016-17
WGDB_16-17 12 Federation of Small Businesses Wales

7 January 2016

Dear Jocelyn Davies AM

RE: Draft Welsh Government Budget

FSB Wales welcomes the opportunity to present its views to the Finance Committee on the Draft Welsh Government Budget. FSB Wales is the authoritative voice of businesses in Wales. With 10,000 members, a Welsh Policy Unit, two regional committees and twelve branch committees; FSB Wales is in constant contact with business at a grassroots level. It undertakes regular online surveys of its members as well as a biennial membership survey on a wide range of issues and concerns facing small business.

In examining the draft budget for 2016-17 we have some concerns over the large amount of resources moved from revenue to capital within the Department for Economy, Science and Transport portfolio. It is unclear to us why this move has occurred and we would welcome further clarity from Welsh Government on the matter.

In terms of the overall budget settlement, we feel this is largely in line with expectations. We welcome the better-than-expected settlement for Local Government, but are concerned about the challenges facing rural authorities and the impact lower budgets will have on the delivery of non-statutory services. In particular we are concerned that the tourism and economic development budgets within local authorities may be hit hard. If economic development is not seen as a priority for local authorities then we may find that this creates further issues in terms of sustainability of services, local employment and poor health outcomes.

I hope you find the comments of FSB Wales of interest.

Yours sincerely

Janet Jones
Wales Policy Chair
Federation of Small Businesses Wales