

ONE ESSEX AVI  
Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services  
Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus

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30 NOVEMBER 2004

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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

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20<sup>th</sup> December 2004

Dear Mike

In the First Minister's questions on 30 November, you raised a question about the Wales Office Final Budget increase. The First Minister promised that you would receive a written answer. Given that this related to a detailed budget issue, which falls to me as Finance Minister, it is appropriate for me to reply.

Wales Office is very aware of the need to control its costs. There has been no increase in the running costs of the Wales Office.

Peter Hain covered this issue in his response to you in the Assembly's Queen Speech debate the following day. The change in the Final Budget reflects the cost of certain services which until last year used to be provided to the Wales Office by the Assembly. The Wales Office now obtains these services from the Department of Constitutional Affairs or from third parties and relevant budget provision has been transferred from the Assembly. These services include information technology, service charges, telephones, accommodation, rent, translations and related capital charges.

If you have any further questions about the details of the Wales Office budget, you should address these to the Secretary of State for Wales.

One Essex



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL  
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE