

Briefing –
Wales Live on Wednesday 6th March at 10pm
and BBC Radio Wales on Thursday 7th March at 8am

Top lines (from PN)

- It is deeply concerning that the Chancellor has ignored calls for support for the poorest people and denied funding for the frontline services that matter to people the most
- The UK Government's return to austerity for public services shows a complete disregard for responsible management of public finances and will require implausible spending cuts in the future
- Despite our poor settlement from the UK Government, we are increasing funding for Wales' health service by more than 4% next year, while the UK Government is only increasing NHS spending in England by 1%
- Yet again our call for an Essentials Guarantee to ensure people on Universal Credit can meet their essential costs was not heeded by the Chancellor
- Instead, he has chosen to cut employee National Insurance Contributions by 2p
- Research from the Institute for Public Policy Research has calculated that nearly half the benefit of this measure would go to the richest 20% of households, while just 3% would end up in the pocket of those already hardest hit in our communities.
- Apart from a few small announcements, there was nothing in this Budget for Wales. Our core priorities for UK Government investment in coal tip safety and re-classification of HS2 have, once again, been ignored
- The UK Government has failed to act on our simple and reasonable request to provide Wales with additional budget flexibilities that would see our borrowing and overall reserve limits indexed to inflation and our reserve draw-down limit permanently abolished
- The additional £168m the Welsh Government will receive in 2024-25, as a result of spending decisions made in England, relates to funding for the NHS and local government which had already been factored into spending plans. There was no additional funding for capital
- The Welsh Government's settlement for 2024-25 is still up to £700m lower in real terms than expected at the time of the 2021 Spending Review and its general capital settlement in 2024-25 is worth up to 8% less

Responses to media queries today

Redacted – not in scope for relating to misinformation, public messaging strategy, or reputational risk