

Finance committee questionnaire

This questionnaire is being sent to those organisations that have an interest in, or which may be affected by, the Welfare Funds (Scotland) Bill (FM) (page 9 of the Explanatory Notes).

In addition to the questions below, please add any other comments you may have which would assist the Finance Committee's scrutiny of the FM.

Consultation

1. Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made? No
2. If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM? N/A
3. Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise? Yes

Costs

4. If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.
No. Main concern is Administration Funding, where Council's staffing costs directly attributable to SWF (at £149k) exceed available funding (of £117k) by approximately 27%. Staffing is 5fte + 0.5fte team leader, but we also incur system and processing and fulfilment costs.

Programme Funding at current level of £33m. will mean that it will be necessary to adjust the priority levels in order to constrain some demand.

5. Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?
In general, yes. It is difficult to understand however (based only on local experience so far) why sum for Second Tier Reviews is so high.
6. If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met? No. If material in value they should be centrally funded.
7. Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill's estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise? Yes.

Wider Issues

8. Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? Yes
If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?

9. Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? Unaware at present of any future costs. If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?
