



Eich cyf/Your ref PO/JB/120/2025  
Ein cyf/Our ref PO/JB/120/2025

Peter Fox MS  
Peter.Fox@senedd.wales

18 March 2025

Dear Peter,

I am following up on exchanges in plenary on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March, on the suggestion that Welsh Government had provided an assumed council tax increase to principal councils in Wales for use in the setting of budgets.

I can confirm that Welsh Government has not issued Councils individually or collectively with an assumed level of increase in Council tax. Decisions on Council tax are for individual authorities to make. These decisions are an important element of local democracy.

My officials have followed up with the Council you indicated and with a small number of other authorities where budget consultation documents had made similar claims.

This small number of Councils had erroneously taken the Council Tax for Standard Spending (CTSS<sup>1</sup>) in the final Settlement for 2024-25 (£1565.36) and the equivalent figure in the 2025-26 provisional settlement (£1726.03) and expressed the difference (£160) as a percentage. This is incorrect. In effect the calculation the Councils have done compares the 2025-2026 CTSS with a theoretical 2024-25 baseline instead of one increased in line with the actual average Band D increases applied by Councils in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

**Jayne Bryant AS/MS**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

<sup>1</sup> The Council Tax for Standard Spending is the level of council tax for a band D property which would be charged in all parts of Wales if all Councils and police force areas spent at the level of their SSA.