

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

19 March 2024

Dear Huw,

Further to my recent letter advising you of the extraordinary virtual meeting of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) on 14 March, I would like to briefly report on the discussions. A communique will also be published shortly: [Communiqués from the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/communique/2024/03/14/finance-interministerial-standing-committee)

Joining me in attendance were Rt Hon Laura Trott MBE MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Shona Robison MSP, Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, and Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA, Minister of Finance for Northern Ireland.

During our discussions on the UK Budget, I raised the implications for Wales, in particular highlighting my concerns over the lack of additional funding for public services. I emphasised the need for early certainty of any additional funding in-year in 2024-25, particularly in relation to public sector pay. We also discussed the importance of clarity on the UK Government's plans for a spending review to support forward planning of our budget.

As with prior meetings of the F:ISC, I reiterated the case for additional budgetary flexibility, pointing to our experience of the latest UK Supplementary Estimates process. I secured a commitment for officials to develop proposals for improving in-year funding processes including consideration of capital to resource switches, to be discussed during a future F:ISC meeting.

Finally, I noted that the Northern Ireland Executive would receive funding through the Shared Prosperity and Levelling Up Funds to administer directly. I reiterated that our position remains that under our devolution settlement, funds for regional investment should be returned to the Welsh Government to deliver.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The next meeting will take place in June.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans.

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