

Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy

13 January 2021

Dear Caoimhe

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2020, regarding the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (“the Fund”).

While we have not undertaken a specific piece of work on the Fund, we are aware of the issues you have highlighted in your letter. The broader issue of financial assistance powers was raised during our scrutiny of the Welsh Government’s Legislative Consent Memorandum (the LCM) on the United Kingdom Internal Market Bill (the Bill). We noted the lack of clarity as to whether such powers were meant to replace, implement or were entirely separate from the Fund. At the time, the Welsh Government’s Counsel General informed us that he had raised the issue with UK Government Ministers more than once and had not received a response. In our [report](#) on the LCM, we expressed our concern at the inclusion of such powers in the Bill.

We are aware that the Senedd’s Finance Committee has [written](#) to you, setting out its understanding of the position arising from its scrutiny of the Welsh Ministers and from an exchange of correspondence with the Secretary of State for Wales. We were disappointed to see the Minister for Finance inform the Finance Committee that, within the context of the announcement of the UK Government’s Spending Review in November last year, the UK Government has “said almost nothing at all” on the Fund and has “shared no meaningful information with the Welsh Government”.

We understand that the Secretary of State for Wales will provide evidence to the House of Commons’ Welsh Affairs Committee this week, on 14 January, and that the Shared Prosperity Fund is an area likely to be covered in that [session](#).

Should the Fund require any legislative elements, it is likely that we will consider such aspects given the standard remit of our Committee.



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I am copying this letter to Llyr Gruffydd MS, Chair of the Finance Committee, as well as Russell George MS, the Chair of the Senedd's Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee, for information.

I hope this letter is helpful to your work and I send best wishes for 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mick Antoniw AM
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

