

Kenneth Gibson
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
Scottish Parliament

Dr Steve Aiken
Chairperson
Committee for Finance
Northern Ireland Assembly

8 July 2021

Dear Kenneth Gibson and Dr Steve Aiken,

Future collaborative working

I am writing to you to introduce myself as the newly elected chair of the Welsh Parliament's Finance Committee. I am aware of the constructive and collaborative relationship that has existed between this predecessor committee, the predecessor committee to the Scottish Parliament's Finance and Public Administration Committee and the Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for Finance, and I very much hope that this positive relationship will continue in the future.

With regards to future collaborative working, there are various issues that our Committee is keen to pursue with the other devolved institutions. From our Committee's perspective, many of these issues focus on the UK Government's unsatisfactory communication with the Welsh Government, and with the predecessor Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee recently held an [evidence session](#) with the Minister for Finance and Local Government on the Welsh Government's First Supplementary Budget 2021-22. During this meeting the Minister highlighted the ongoing difficulties she was experiencing in obtaining clarity from the UK Government on the issue of Barnett consequentials:

"...you'll be aware of UK Government's announcements in respect of education recently. Now, we haven't been able to determine whether that's new money, whether it's repurposed funding, whether it's reannouncing previously-announced funding, and as such, we're unable to get a clear picture as to what our, if anything, Barnett consequential would be as a result of that announcement, and that's just one example."

On a similar issue, the Committee is concerned that communication and scrutiny of fiscal arrangements with the UK Government are not fit for purpose. The previous Finance Committee's



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legacy report suggested closer working with other devolved administrations and the Welsh Affairs Committee to collectively apply pressure on the UK Government to provide clarity on funding decisions.

These are just two of the issues that the Committee is keen to pursue in collaboration with both your respective committees and I look forward to hearing your views on future collaborative working.

It may be prudent for us to arrange a meeting as Chairs of our respective committees, so that we can discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peredur Owen Griffiths', written in a cursive style.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS

Chair of the Finance Committee

