

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

5 April 2022

Dear Huw,

Further to my recent letter advising you of the Finance Interministerial Standing Committee Meeting on 21 March, I write to briefly report on the discussions. A communique was also published following the meeting: [Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee – 21 March 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/finance-interministerial-standing-committee-21-march-2022)

In attendance were myself, Chief Secretary to the Treasury - Simon Clarke MP, Minister for Finance Northern Ireland - Conor Murphy MLA, and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy Scottish Government - Kate Forbes MSP.

There was a natural focus on the UK Government's proposals for the UK Spring Statement, with little further clarity received at that time. I pressed the Chief Secretary about support for those to be harmed the most by the cost of living crisis, especially for those individuals on welfare benefits. Details of the impact of the UK Government's Spring Statement for Wales are set out in my Written Statement: [Written Statement: Welsh Government response to the UK Spring Statement 2022 \(23 March 2022\) | GOV.WALES](https://www.gov.wales/written-statement/welsh-government-response-to-the-uk-spring-statement-2022)

I led an agenda item on Devolved Government budgeting and communications, providing examples of our year-end budgeting experience and stressing the importance of the need for greater certainty. An action was agreed for officials to work together to consider whether year-end processes can be operated more effectively.

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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.

Under the item regarding the UK Government's Levelling Up White paper I took the opportunity to reiterate concerns that this should not cut across devolved policy and highlighted that Wales receives much less Research and Development funding than other parts of the UK.

Under the new arrangements, the Chair position will rotate so I will be Chairing the next meeting. The date is still to be confirmed but is expected to take place before summer recess.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca". The script is cursive and fluid.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

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