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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

24 November 2022

Dear Huw,

Further to my recent letter advising you of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) meeting, which I attended on 20 October virtually, I would like to briefly report on the discussions.

John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister (Scottish Government), chaired the meeting on behalf of Kate Forbes MSP, Finance and Economy Minister (Scottish Government), who is on maternity leave. I attended alongside Rt Hon Edward Argar MP, the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Conor Murphy MLA, Minister of Finance (Northern Ireland Executive).

The meeting focused on the current economic and fiscal crisis. However, the meeting was cut short due to the Prime Minister resigning during the meeting. In the short time available, I pressed for early transparency regarding the UK Government's plans noting the implications for our own Budget. I strongly opposed cuts to public spending, advocated for infrastructure investment and emphasised that the UK Government must deliver on its commitment to support the most vulnerable in society, including by increasing benefits in line with inflation.

It was not possible to reschedule the F:ISC meeting ahead of the UK Government's Autumn Statement, and I will inform the Committee of the next meeting date when it is confirmed.

The Committee may also wish to be aware that I had written to the Chancellor ahead of the UK Autumn's Statement to set out the priorities for Wales, including protecting public services, targeting support to the most vulnerable and boosting economic growth through capital stimulus and green investment. I reiterated these points when I met with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, John Glen MP, on 14 November.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Minister for Finance and Local Government

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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.