

Rt Hon John Glen MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury

26 May 2023

Dear John,

Invitation to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Thank you for your response dated 5 May, although it is highly regrettable that you have declined our invitation to attend a session of the Senedd's Finance Committee.

We appreciate that as a member of the UK Government you are accountable to the UK Parliament for your tax and spending decisions. However, as stated in my letter of 22 March, the Committee has a logical and natural interest in the funding decisions made by the Treasury and its impact on devolved matters, and it is these issues, which touch upon core aspects of our remit, that we wish to explore with you in greater detail. Your unwillingness to participate in a Committee session denies our Members this opportunity.

I would also remind you that the Independent Commission on Funding and Finance for Wales's report: Fairness and accountability: a new funding settlement for Wales, recommended that a Treasury Minister should be invited to meet the Senedd's Finance Committee at least once in every spending review period to discuss the funds made available to Wales. We are currently two years into this Senedd term and both you and your predecessor have refused to attend. The Finance Committee of the Fifth Senedd also made several requests to your predecessors who declined. It has therefore been some time since a Treasury Minister has been willing to engage with us. This unfortunate pattern calls into question the UK Government's willingness to interact with the devolved legislatures and to be held accountable for decisions made by the Treasury centrally that have a significant impact on the operation of devolved finances.

Given your responsibility for treasury interests in devolution to Wales, including in non-devolved areas, we feel that the value of the scrutiny process will be undermined by your lack of engagement and we would urge you to reconsider your decision not to attend one of the following Committee slots (morning only). We are able to facilitate this session either in person or remotely:

- Thursday, 8 June 2023
- Wednesday, 21 June 2023
- Wednesday, 28 June 2023
- Thursday, 6 July 2023
- Thursday, 13 July 2023

It is our hope that we can develop a more constructive relationship with the UK Treasury and we look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths,
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.