



Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

27 September 2023

Dear Huw,

Further to my recent letter advising you of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee Meeting (F:ISC) on 20 September in London, I would like to briefly report on the discussions. A communique was also published following the meeting: [Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee – 20 September 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/interministerial-standing-committee-20-september-2023)

Joining me in attendance were The Rt Hon John Glen MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Shona Robison MSP, Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Finance. Officials from the Northern Ireland Executive also attended virtually, to observe.

Further to an action from the previous meeting, all Ministers agreed the revised F:ISC Terms of Reference and Operating Protocols which officials reviewed over the summer: [Terms of Reference for the Finance Interministerial Standing Committee - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/123456/interministerial-standing-committee-terms-of-reference-2023.pdf)

The first part of the meeting focused on economic and fiscal priorities. A conversation took place on funding pressures, including Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). I outlined the need for further clarity of spending decisions taken in England and the implications these have for our budget settlement, in particular in relation to NHS pay. I also made the case for more flexibility, including pressing for the changes to borrowing and reserve limits made to the Scottish Government Fiscal Framework to be automatically applied to Wales.

During a discussion on the upcoming UK Government Autumn Statement, I stressed the implications that the late timing has for the Welsh Government draft budget, particularly in terms of the short timescale for Senedd scrutiny. I requested a meeting closer to the Statement to discuss any developments and priorities. I noted that it would be helpful to understand the outcome of the UK Government's Productivity Review and any implications that this might have for our budget settlement.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

The second part of the meeting focused on energy security. I mentioned the Future Energy Grids for Wales report, which is helpful in detailing the urgent case for investment in the network and grid infrastructure. We discussed improvements to the Contracts for Difference funding package, which provides support for emerging renewable technologies. I also raised the need for UK Government investment in port infrastructure to support Floating Offshore Wind deployment in Wales.

The Scottish Government will host the next meeting, in January.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government