

Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges MS
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

26 September 2024

Dear Mike,

I write for the first time in my role as Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language, I look forward to working with you in this capacity. This is to inform you that a meeting of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) will take place on 3 October in Belfast. This will be the first meeting of the F:ISC with the new UK Government and I look forward to a constructive discussion.

The focus of the meeting will be on the economic and fiscal context and plans including the UK Government's spending inheritance. I will outline the Welsh Government priorities for the UK Autumn Budget and UK Spending Review. This includes our shared ambition for driving growth, renewing public services and accelerating net zero. I will also provide an update on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025-26 and the Welsh Government Spending Review.

There will be a discussion on fiscal flexibilities where I will outline the importance of the Welsh Government having appropriate budgetary flexibilities, and we will discuss options to enable us to maximise our resources.

The meeting will also have a focus on collaborative working and shared priorities. This is an opportunity to discuss longer-term issues, and how we can work together to make progress including the future of replacement EU funds.

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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.

I will meet separately with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to discuss Wales-specific issues. I will report to the Committee on the outcome of the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mark Drakeford AS/MS

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