



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Interparliamentary Finance Committee Forum

12 February 2025

Dear Kenneth, Peredur and Matthew,

**HM TREASURY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY FINANCE COMMITTEE FORUM**

1. Thank you for your letter of 24<sup>th</sup> September to the Chancellor regarding engagement with devolved legislature Finance Committees, which she has passed to me as minister responsible for public spending, and for your letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> December inviting me to the Interparliamentary Finance Committee Forum on 19<sup>th</sup> March. I am sorry for the delay in responding.
2. I am happy to attend the closed session meeting of the Interparliamentary Finance Committee Forum on 19 March and my officials will liaise with the Assembly Finance Committee Clerk to make arrangements.
3. I recognise the importance of the devolved legislature Finance Committees in providing rigorous scrutiny to devolved government spending and I am keen to support your work, whilst also recognising the importance of Parliamentary accountabilities and that the UK Government is accountable to the UK Parliament for its tax and spending decisions. I will consider invitations from the Interparliamentary Finance Committee Forum and devolved legislature finance committees on a case-by-case basis. In doing so, I will need to ensure that issues of accountability are considered and so the bar for my involvement will be high.
4. I will continue to regularly engage with my devolved government counterparts through the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee, as well as on an individual basis.
5. I am copying this letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Treasury Committee and the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON DARREN JONES MP  
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Finance and Public  
Administration  
Committee**



**Senedd Cymru  
Welsh Parliament**

**Y Pwyllgor Cyllid**

—  
**Finance Committee**



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

Rt. Hon Rachel Reeves,  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Copy to: Treasury Committee; Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs  
Committee; Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

**24 September 2024**

Dear Chancellor

## **Interparliamentary Finance Committee Forum**

The Interparliamentary Finance Committee Forum (IFCF), which comprises the Finance Committees of the devolved nations, looks forward to working with you in your new role as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The IFCF was established in June 2022 by the Scottish Parliament's Finance and Public Administration Committee and the Welsh Parliament's Finance Committee, with the Northern Ireland Assembly's Finance Committee later joining following the recent Stormont elections. The Forum was established to provide a collective voice for the Finance Committees in the devolved legislatures to raise issues of common interest and concern with the devolved governments and the UK Government. The IFCF also provides opportunities for information-sharing, to hear from relevant Ministers, and to consider common challenges.

We wrote to your predecessor in March 2024 expressing our disappointment about the apparent blanket approach of the then Treasury Ministers and officials to refuse invitations to speak with our respective Committee meetings, as well as our last IFCF meeting held in London in March 2024.

We note the Prime Minister's ambition to "forge new co-operation with politicians from across different political parties" and we hope that this marks a return to the constructive approach of Treasury Ministers of earlier UK Governments. As you know, effective budgeting is essential in the context of the shared fiscal pressures faced by the UK Government and the devolved administrations. Further devolution and the sharing of powers in recent years has also led to budgetary decisions in the UK and the devolved nations becoming more closely linked. Discussion of these matters with HM Treasury is therefore very important to our Committees' roles in holding our respective devolved governments to account for their taxation and spending decisions.

The Forum very much welcomes your intention for spending reviews to “take place every two years, with a minimum planning horizon of three years, to avoid uncertainty for departments and to bring stability to the public finances.” We also seek your support in providing greater certainty to the devolved governments and Parliaments regarding the timing of major fiscal events each year as well as the earlier sharing of information. This is particularly in relation to final supplementary estimates which can substantially impact on the in-year budget plans when there is less flexibility for devolved governments to respond to significant budgetary changes.

The IFCF is keen to reopen dialogue with HM Treasury on these issues and remains ready to welcome you and your Ministerial finance colleagues to the Scottish Parliament, the Senedd and the Northern Ireland Assembly for discussions and formal scrutiny of budgetary issues. We would be very keen to welcome you to the IFCF to explore common areas of interest across the UK.

We therefore invite you to update us on how you would wish to engage with the Finance Committees in the devolved Parliaments.

Yours sincerely,



**Kenneth Gibson**  
Convener  
Finance and Public  
Administration  
Committee  
The Scottish Parliament



**Peredur Owen Griffiths**  
Chair  
Finance Committee  
Senedd Cymru

*Matthew  
O'Toole*

**Mr Matthew O'Toole**  
Chairperson  
Committee for Finance  
Northern Ireland  
Assembly