

Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

3 November 2020

Dear Secretary of State

### **Inquiry into the implementation of the Wales Act 2014 and operation of the Fiscal Framework**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I express our disappointment that you have not given permission for the Department of Work and Pensions to provide oral evidence to our [inquiry into the implementation of the Wales Act 2014 and the operation of the Fiscal Framework](#).



Whilst we appreciate you have agreed to provide written evidence, this does not allow Members the same opportunity to explore issues in depth to the same extent. The [arrangements between the Welsh Government and the Department for Work and Pensions](#) sets out:

“The DWP Permanent Secretary is the Accounting Officer with overall responsibility for ensuring that the correct IT and administrative systems are in place to support the timely introduction of WRIT. Welsh Assembly committees may request that DWP provides a senior official to give evidence and DWP will consider these requests in line with Cabinet Office guidance on officials’ attendance at such committees.”



This is an important inquiry for us to consider how fiscal devolution has been implemented and how the different bodies are working to ensure an effective process. We believe it is important to hear from the DWP and I would ask you to re-consider allowing an official to provide evidence to our inquiry next week, this sets an important precedent - Senedd Committees should be afforded the same respect as Westminster Committees when UK Government departments are operating in areas of devolved competence.



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Llyr'.

Llyr Gruffydd MS / AS

Cadeirydd / Chair

