

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

12 January 2024

Dear Huw,

I am writing to inform you that a meeting of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) will take place on 25 January in Edinburgh, although we are awaiting final agreement of the arrangements.

The focus of the meeting will be on economic and fiscal priorities. I will be providing an update on the Welsh Government Draft budget 2024-25 and outlining the difficult decisions we have taken to ensure our spending plans support critical public services.

I will also be pressing the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (CST) for clarity on the changes we can expect to our 2023-24 budget settlement in the UK Supplementary Estimates in February, including confirmation of whether we will receive consequential funding as a result of public sector pay awards in England.

Looking ahead, it is likely this will be the last F:ISC before the UK Spring Budget. I will be making the case for investment in Welsh Government priorities, as well as continuing to press for UK Government support to protect public services. There will also be a discussion on the UK Government preparations for the next UK Spending Review. I will be seeking assurances that my officials will be engaged in this work which is due to conclude in the Autumn.

The meeting will also have a focus on tackling poverty. This is an opportunity to discuss the economic and fiscal actions being taken across nations as well as consideration for joint-working.

I will be meeting separately with the CST to discuss Wales-specific spending pressures and the economic outlook.

I will report to the Committee on the outcome of the meeting.

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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.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans.

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