

Laura Trott MBE MP  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury

22 May 2024

Dear Chief Secretary

### Finance Committee report: Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25 and Inquiry into Fiscal Intergovernmental Relations

I wrote to you on [5 February 2024](#), in relation to the Finance Committee [report on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25](#), which included a recommendation to the Treasury in relation to the timing of fiscal events. In addition, the letter extended an invitation for you to participate in a session on our inquiry into [Fiscal Intergovernmental Relations](#) (IGR).

I have been informed by your office that you have declined our invitation due to parliamentary accountabilities where the UK Government is accountable to the UK Parliament for its tax and spending decisions.

The fact that you are not willing to formally respond is deeply disappointing and shows a notable lack of respect for the Committee and a disregard for the informal processes which underpin devolution in the UK. I am also concerned that the Committee's relationship with the Treasury and your office in particular has worsened considerably to that experienced with your predecessor.

I appreciate that UK Ministers are not directly accountable to the Senedd. However, given the intrinsic link between the Welsh and UK governments on fiscal matters, we ask again for you to provide evidence to inform our work.

As you are aware, the Committee is currently considering the effectiveness of the intergovernmental structures that are in place on fiscal matters as part of our inquiry into Fiscal IGR.



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The UK Government's IGR review noted disputes related to the Welsh fiscal framework will continue to be managed through the fiscal framework agreement.

To inform our work it would be helpful to understand:

- what processes are in place to facilitate transparency of funding allocations to devolved governments and how do you ensure your announcements on devolved funding are made in a timely manner to enable devolved governments to plan their budgets appropriately; and
- what the key differences are between the dispute resolution mechanisms for the fiscal framework and other fiscal matters and the strengths and weaknesses of each.

The Committee intends to report in the autumn so I would be grateful for a response by 10 July. I am copying this letter to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury; Treasury Committee; and the Welsh Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

