



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Finance and Public  
Administration  
Committee**



Senedd Cymru  
Welsh Parliament

**Y Pwyllgor Cyllid  
—  
Finance Committee**



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**Committee for Finance**

Rt. Hon. Darren Jones MP  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Issued via email to: [action.cst@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:action.cst@hmtreasury.gov.uk)

Dear Darren,

## **Interparliamentary Finance Committee Forum**

Once again, we would like to thank you for your virtual attendance at the Forum's meeting on 19 March 2025, although brief, it was much appreciated.

The Forum places considerable value on engagement with you and the Chancellor. As was indicated at the meeting, Members would have liked the engagement to be much longer and in person. We therefore ask that invitations to give evidence, either from the Forum, or from our respective Committees, are responded to favourably in the future.

As both you and the Chancellor will appreciate, the core role of each Committee is to apply robust scrutiny to the overarching budgets of the Devolved Governments and, as you know, those budgets are very contingent on the actions of the Treasury. Direct engagement with you, and/or the Chancellor, will often provide the only route for that scrutiny to be applied.

Consideration of these invitations should reflect the engagement the Treasury has undertaken with the devolved legislatures in previous parliaments and the guidance set out in Devolution Note 12 (attached for your information), in particular paragraph 5 which states that:

*“While UK Ministers’ over-riding responsibility is to the Parliament at Westminster, any request for a Minister to attend a Committee of a devolved legislature should be treated with as much care and courtesy as an invitation to attend a Commons or Lords Select Committee. If the assessment of the legal position is that a Minister could be required to attend a meeting then sending a representative will not usually be acceptable and every endeavour should be made to attend when and as required by the devolved legislature.”*

This approach would also underpin the Forum's desire, which you and the UK Government have also stated, for us to reset relationships and to move forward with greater co-operation and collaboration between our respective governments and legislatures.

We are sure that you will agree that greater engagement with the Treasury will provide more opportunities for Members to discuss the allocation of budgets and other funding to the Devolved Governments, together with more and better information and greater transparency around the UK Government's budgetary decisions affecting the Devolved Governments. The Forum provides an excellent platform to host that engagement and looks forward to working with you more closely going forward on the issues which concern us all.

This correspondence has been copied to the Treasury Committee and the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Affairs Committees for their information.

Yours sincerely,

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

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

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

Cc.

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Encs.