

Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges MS
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

31 October 2025

Dear Mike,

I can confirm that the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) meeting was held on 17 October 2025. A communiqué has been published following the meeting: [Communiqués from the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee - GOV.UK](#)

The meeting was chaired by Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Scottish Government). I attended alongside James Murray MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury (UK Government), and John O'Dowd MLA, Minister of Finance (Northern Ireland Executive). The focus was on improving collaboration, information sharing, and ensuring devolved governments are sighted on key UK Government decisions ahead of the UK Autumn Budget.

There was a shared recognition of the importance of timely information sharing, particularly around the scheduling of UK fiscal events and potential tax and spending decisions including public sector pay. There was also discussion on alleviating child poverty.

On budget flexibilities, I reiterated the Welsh Government's position that devolved governments should be able to operate more flexibly within existing arrangements. I was pleased to secure agreement to undertake joint work looking at ways of improving the operation of the Barnett formula, to report at the next F:ISC. This is an important step in ensuring the UK funding arrangements are transparent and fair.

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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.

I also had the opportunity to raise Wales-specific issues during a separate meeting with the Chief Secretary, including economic investment in Wales and post Brexit Border Control Posts.

Finally, it was agreed that a future F:ISC meeting would include a discussion on barriers to growth. The next meeting is expected to take place in February 2026.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mark Drakeford AS/MS

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