

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

3 October 2025

Dear Mike,

A meeting of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) will take place on 17 October in Edinburgh. It will be chaired by the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Shona Robison.

The agenda will focus on preparations for the UK Autumn Budget and discussions on economic growth. We will discuss the latest economic position, and I will seek engagement on potential spending and tax changes at the Budget.

I will outline our desire for the UK Government to use the macro levers available to it to alleviate child poverty and to explore practical ways of raising funds to pay for measures to support the most deprived and to invest in public services.

We will continue with the discussions on improving the fiscal flexibilities available to devolved governments. There has been useful work between officials over the summer regarding the improvements which might be achieved in the short term, as well as longer term proposals and we will be looking for opportunities to progress these options.

We will discuss the potential for improvements to the operation of the Barnett formula. I will reiterate my previously stated position that the Barnett system needs to be reformed and concerns with its legitimacy and fairness addressed.

I will meet separately with the new Chief Secretary to the Treasury to discuss the Welsh Government key priorities for the UK Autumn Budget which includes securing enhanced budget flexibilities in respect of our Reserve and borrowing limits.

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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 will write to the Committee after the F:ISC to update it on discussions.

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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