

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email: fpa.committee@parliament.scot

14 March 2025

Dear Kenneth,

I am writing to formally advise that a meeting of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) took place in Cardiff on Thursday 27 February 2025, hosted by the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language, the Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS, chaired the meeting which was also attended by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Rt Hon Darren Jones MP, and John O'Dowd MLA, Minister of Finance in the Northern Ireland Executive.

I used this meeting to set out the challenges facing the Scottish Budget and our priorities for the UK Spending Review, highlighting the opportunity that the Spending Review provides for collaboration between the four nations to support economic growth. I highlighted the importance of involving devolved governments in the Spending Review process as this will have a significant impact on our future budget. I also reiterated the need for the UK Government to fully fund the additional cost to public services of the increase in employer National Insurance contributions and made clear that it would not be right for our public services to suffer as a result of this change.

As you will be aware, the F:ISC meetings form a part of the machinery of intergovernmental relations and are a forum to discuss economic and financial matters.

I have attached the agreed communique from the meeting to this letter for your awareness. It provides an overview of the matters discussed at the meeting. This is also published at [Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee - 27 February 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

My officials will continue to liaise with the Committee clerks to ensure it is kept apprised of F:ISC and associated arrangements, and I will continue to engage with the Committee across

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

its on-going business. I expect the next meeting of F:ISC to take place before the conclusion of the UK Spending Review.

Yours sincerely

SHONA ROBISON

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Silver



Communiqué – Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee

27 February 2025

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language, the Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS (Welsh Government), chaired a meeting of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) in Cardiff on 27 February.

The meeting was attended by the Rt Hon Darren Jones MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury (UK Government), Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Shona Robison MSP (Scottish Government) and John O'Dowd MLA, Minister of Finance (Northern Ireland Executive).

All ministers appreciated the opportunity to discuss economic and fiscal challenges, focusing on their shared ambitions in respect of driving economic growth.

Ministers shared their priorities as part of the second phase of the UK Spending Review and the upcoming UK Spring Statement on 26 March 2025. All four ministers agreed on the importance of continued collaboration on priorities such as budget flexibility, which are key to driving economic growth and ensuring resources are maximised.

Each of the devolved governments' Finance Ministers provided updates on their draft budgets for 2025-26.

Ministers noted that the next meeting of the F:ISC would take place in the spring, to be chaired by the UK Government.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE[™]
We invest in people Silver

