

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Finance

Shona Robison MSP

 **Scottish Go**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
vernment

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

20 February 2024

Dear Kenneth,

I am writing to inform you that the Scottish Government hosted the Finance: Interministerial Standing committee (F:ISC) in St. Andrews House on Thursday 25 January 2024.

This was the first of the quarterly F:ISC meetings this year. I chaired the meeting which was also attended by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Rt Hon Laura Trott MP and Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government in the Welsh Government. Officials from the Northern Ireland Executive joined virtually in the absence of ministers. Since then, the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland have been restored and I look forward to the Northern Ireland Minister of Finance joining the next meeting.

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.

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 its on-going business.

SHONA ROBISON

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www.lobbying.scot

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

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Communiqué – Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee

25 January 2024

St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Shona Robison MSP (Scottish Government) chaired a meeting of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) on 25 January in Edinburgh. The meeting was attended by the Rt Hon Laura Trott MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury (UK Government) and Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government (Welsh Government). Officials from the Northern Ireland Executive attended virtually in a listening capacity.

All ministers welcomed the opportunity to meet in person to discuss the current economic context and public spending pressures, whilst continuing to build constructive and positive relationships across all governments.

Ministers discussed their economic and fiscal priorities following the UK Autumn Statement and in advance of the upcoming UK Spring Budget. The Scottish Government and Welsh Government also provided updates on their budgets for 2024-25, which had been published in December.

Ministers went on to discuss action to tackle poverty in an economic and fiscal context. This included discussion of measures contained in the Scottish and Welsh budgets, as well as consideration of the role that reserved policy levers can play in tackling poverty.

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