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15 July 2025

Dear Kenneth,

I am writing to formally advise that I attended a meeting of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) in London on Thursday 26 June 2025, hosted by the UK Government.

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

I used this meeting to highlight the ways in which the UK Spending Review settlement for the Scottish Government has added to the challenges facing the Scottish Budget – not least that our funding for day-to-day spending is set to grow by only 0.8% over the next three years, which is lower than the funding scenario that had been forecast after the UK Spring Statement. While the increase in Financial Transactions funding was welcome, I reiterated that we must receive a 'fair share' of the increased level of investment. We also discussed the recently published Industrial Strategy and 10 Year Infrastructure Strategy, and pushed for further collaboration in ensuring the delivery of economic growth.

I then led discussions on options for greater fiscal flexibilities, which would enable devolved governments to better manage funding volatility.

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 [Communiqué from the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee - 26 June 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

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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. I expect the next meeting of F:ISC to take place in the Autumn, which will be hosted by the Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely

**SHONA ROBISON**

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## **Communiqué – Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee**

**26 June 2025**

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the Rt Hon Darren Jones MP, chaired a meeting of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee on 26 June in London.

The meeting was attended by The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language, the Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS (Welsh Government), Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Shona Robison MSP (Scottish Government) and John O'Dowd MLA, Minister of Finance (Northern Ireland Executive).

Ministers welcomed the opportunity to discuss the outcomes of the UK Government Spending Review and its impacts on Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and devolved government budgets. Ministers also discussed next steps following the UK Government Spending Review and the path to a budget in the autumn.

They also discussed the recently published Industrial Strategy and 10 Year Infrastructure Strategy. All four Ministers agreed that continued collaboration across these strategies will be essential in their success and in ensuring the delivery of economic growth.

Ministers also covered the approach to devolved government fiscal flexibilities, where a discussion followed.

Ministers noted that the next meeting of the F:ISC would take place in the autumn and would be chaired by the Scottish Government.

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