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Edinburgh  
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28 October 2024

Dear Kenneth,

I am writing to formally advise that the Northern Ireland Executive hosted the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) in Belfast on Thursday 3 October 2024.

This represented the first time that the F:ISC has met since the UK General Election and the formation of a new Labour Government.

Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA, Minister of Finance in the Northern Ireland Executive, chaired the meeting which was also attended by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Darren Jones MP and Mark Drakeford MS, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language in the Welsh Government.

I used this meeting to set out the challenges facing the Scottish Budget and our priorities for the UK Budget, in particular the need to protect public services, invest in infrastructure to support economic growth and net zero, and take action to tackle poverty. I also highlighted the importance of the UK Government respecting the role of devolved governments and legislatures in its spending decisions.

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 [Communique from the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee - 3 October 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/communique/2024/10/03/finance-interministerial-standing-committee-3-october-2024)

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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 after winter recess.

Yours sincerely

**SHONA ROBISON**

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## Communiqué – Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee

3 October 2024

The Minister of Finance (Northern Ireland Executive), Dr Caoimhe Archibald chaired a meeting of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) on 3 October in Belfast. The meeting was attended by the Rt Hon Darren Jones MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury (UK Government), Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Scottish Government) and Mark Drakeford MS, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language (Welsh Government).

This represented the first time that the F:ISC has met since the UK General Election and the formation of a new Labour Government, and the appointment of Mark Drakeford, MS as the Welsh Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language.

All Ministers acknowledged a shared interest in resetting relationships and working collaboratively to drive economic growth and deliver the vital public services on which our citizens depend.

Ministers discussed the current challenging fiscal and economic context as well as fiscal plans and budgetary flexibilities. Funding for 2024-25 as well as the upcoming multi-year UK Spending Review and Autumn Budget were also discussed.

Ministers went on to discuss collaborative working and shared priorities. Ministers agreed on the importance and value of regular in-person F:ISC meetings as a means of progressing this collaborative approach and look forward to the next planned meeting which will be hosted by the Welsh Government.

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