



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Finance and Public Administration Committee

Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA  
Chairperson  
Committee for Finance  
Northern Ireland Assembly

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair  
Finance Committee  
Senedd Cymru

By Email

All correspondence c/o:  
Finance and Public  
Administration Committee Clerks  
Room T3.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131 348 5219  
Textphone: 0800 092 7100  
[FPA.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:FPA.committee@parliament.scot)

29 September 2021

Dear Peredur and Steve,

Thank you for your letters regarding co-operative working between finance committees in the devolved legislatures. I know this is something that our predecessor committees found to be extremely helpful in the past and, like you, we are keen to continue and build upon this approach in the new Parliamentary session.

The Committee has considered your letters and agreed to delegate to the clerks responsibility for discussing with their counterparts a possible approach, purpose and timing for future meetings with the other devolved finance committees, and to bring back proposals to a future Committee meeting. The clerks will therefore be in touch with your own clerks soon to commence these discussions.

We have also noted the contents of the Prime Minister's letter of 7 September to the First Ministers of the devolved administrations and the Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, setting out plans for a new UK-wide Health and Social Care Levy<sup>1</sup>. In particular, we note that the letter confirms that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster would write again shortly to conclude the Intergovernmental Relations Review.

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<sup>1</sup>[Letter from the Prime Minister to the First Ministers of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

The conclusion of this Review is likely to have implications for intergovernmental mechanisms including the Finance Ministers' Quadrilaterals. I expect this may be an additional area where inter-Parliamentary co-operation might be beneficial, in addition to the issues you have rightly highlighted in respect of UK Government communications and transparency in relation to budgetary allocations and timings.

Finally, one further issue it may be helpful to discuss as part of our future collective discussions is the replacement of EU legacy funds, which represents a potentially significant level of funding to be spent in the devolved nations which is not allocated on the basis of the Barnett Formula or through the Fiscal Framework.

I look forward to meeting you both in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth J Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Kenneth Gibson MSP**  
**Convener**  
**Finance and Public Administration Committee**