

P-04-436 Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales report -
Correspondence from the petitioner to the Chair, 01.07.2013

Please find below my response to William Powell AM regarding the letter from Jane Hutt. I attach a copy of the letter with two key pieces highlighted which will help explain my frustration.

Dear William Powell AM

The petition called for a report on "Government expenditure and revenue in Wales" and Jane Hutt's response is simply to say that they already publish how much they spend. This conveniently misses the key point about revenue. The people of Wales need to know just how much revenue is being raised in Wales. And that includes revenue Wales is currently not credited with.

We in Wales are always told that we are not financially viable on our own and people believe this because they have no accurate figures to know one way or another. A GERW report would answer this question and would also be a great way of being able to measure how well the Welsh Government is doing, it would be a good barometer for the financial climate of Wales and act as a target that the Welsh Government's successes and failures could be measured against.

Perhaps those are just a few of the reasons why the point of this petition appears to have been missed so deliberately.

Regards

Stuart Evans

Dear William,

Petitions Committee: analysis of Welsh and UK Government financial statistics

Thank you for your letter of 23 January, about the petition proposing that the Welsh Government issues a report on Government expenditure and **revenue** in Wales.

At this time, I have no plans to produce a further report on financial statistics, as comprehensive **information is already available on public expenditure in Wales** (published by the Welsh Government on devolved issues, and by the UK Government on non-devolved matters).

However, it is possible that this situation could change in the future. In its report to the UK Government, the Commission on Devolution in Wales, chaired by Paul Silk, has recommended a wide range of financial reforms, including the devolution of several taxes and borrowing powers. If those recommendations were implemented by the UK Government, I can see that there could well be a need for further information to be made available, especially in relation to the receipts raised by any devolved taxes.

That decision must, however, await the UK Government's response to its Commission and the discussions that will follow.

Best wishes,
Jane

Jane Hutt AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty
Minister for Finance and Leader of the House