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Jocelyn Davies AM  
Chair, Finance Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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20 March 2014

Dear Jocelyn,

I am writing in response to your letter of 3 March.

I am pleased to inform you that I have today introduced the Wales Bill in the House of Commons. I enclose a copy of the Bill, and you will wish to note, in particular, that clause 21 of the Bill provides the Assembly with the power to legislate in relation to its budget procedures.

The Government has given careful consideration to the recommendations made by the Welsh Affairs Committee resulting from its pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill, and has accepted the majority of the Committee's recommendations.

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury and I have also published a Command Paper, *Wales Bill: Financial Empowerment and Accountability*, which sets out in more detail the effects of the Finance elements in Part 2 of the Bill. I enclose a copy of the Command paper with this letter.

I note your Committee's intention to scrutinise the Command Paper alongside the Bill. I have considered carefully your request that I attend Committee to discuss the paper and the Bill, but think that this may be a matter more suited to an HM Treasury Minister given the Committee's remit. I understand you have written separately to Treasury Ministers and that they will be responding shortly.

I look forward to reading the Committee's deliberations and will keep you informed of the Bill's progress during its passage through the House.

*Yes over,*  


**Rt Hon / Y Gwir Anrh David Jones MP / AS**  
**Secretary of State for Wales**  
**Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru**