

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Finance & Government Business



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jocelyn Davies AM
Chair of Finance Committee

18 December 2014

Dear Jocelyn,

At the Finance Committee on 10th December I was asked to provide information on how I engage and use academic experts to generate economic data.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, statisticians engage with a wide range of users across the academic, public and private sector to inform decisions on statistical priorities. This ranges from formal consultation exercises, user engagement events to more informal dialogue as required. In terms of economic data this has included major consultations in 2009 and 2012, together with a user event in 2011, as well as the general consultation on proposals for official statistics earlier in 2014.

The Chief Economist engages frequently with a variety of academic experts, both within Wales and beyond, in the context of procuring economic research and disseminating findings.

I recognise the importance of engaging further over the next few months and years with academic experts, and experts from other sectors, as we obtain new financial powers. To this end, I have established a Tax Advisory Group which includes a senior research economist from the Institute for Fiscal Studies, along with representatives from the accountancy and legal professions.

Best wishes,
Jane

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