

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance
Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit
airson Ionmhas

Shona Robison MSP
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The Scottish Parliament
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23 June 2023

Dear Convener,

I am writing to inform you that the Finance: Interministerial Standing committee (F:ISC) met in Cardiff on Thursday 22 June.

This was the second of the quarterly F:ISC meetings this year, following the February meeting in Edinburgh. The meeting was chaired by Rebecca Evans MS, Welsh Government Minister for Finance and Local Government, and also attended by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Rt Hon John Glen MP. Officials from the Northern Ireland Executive joined virtually in the absence of ministers.

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. It is also available on the Scottish Government website at: [Finance Interministerial Standing Committee: 22 June 2023 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Information/Press/2023/06/23/Finance-Interministerial-Standing-Committee-22-June-2023)

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.

SHONA ROBISON

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Annex: Joint F:ISC Communique

Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee

22 June 2023

Cathays Park, Cardiff

Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government (Welsh Government) chaired a meeting of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) on 22 June 2023 in Cardiff. The meeting was attended by The Rt Hon John Glen MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury (UK Government), and Shona Robison MSP, Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Finance (Scottish Government). Officials from the Northern Ireland Executive attended virtually in a listening capacity.

All Ministers welcomed the opportunity to meet in-person to discuss the current economic context and sought to build positive and constructive relationships across the governments.

Ministers discussed public spending pressures and the economic outlook with a focus on the on-going budget challenges, inflation, funding for capital investment and the importance of working collaboratively in relation to the cost of living crisis.

The second substantive agenda item was a discussion on energy security and net zero, looking at this issue through an economic and fiscal lens. Each government provided an update on areas of focus and discussed opportunities around job creation and research, development and innovation.

Finally, Ministers engaged on an update on EU replacement funding, reporting on the action from the previous meeting.

As the F:ISC has been operational for over a year, agreement was given to officials working over the summer to review the Terms of Reference and Operating Procedures.

Ministers noted that the next meeting of the F:ISC would take place in September but welcomed continual inter-ministerial engagement between the governments.

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