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Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email: fpa.committee@parliament.scot

29 September 2023

Dear Convener,

I am writing to inform you that the Finance: Interministerial Standing committee (F:ISC) met in London on Wednesday 20 September 2023.

This was the third of the quarterly F:ISC meetings this year, following the June meeting in Cardiff. The meeting was chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Rt Hon John Glen MP, and also attended by Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government in the Welsh Government. 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.

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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Communiqué - Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee

20 September 2023

1 Horse Guards, London

The Rt Hon John Glen MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury (UK Government) chaired a meeting of the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) on 20 September in London. The meeting was attended by Shona Robison MSP, Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Finance (Scottish Government) and Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government (Welsh 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 public spending pressures, whilst continuing to build constructive and positive relationships across all governments.

Ministers discussed their economic and fiscal priorities in advance of the upcoming UKG Autumn Statement and the challenges on Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). The Scottish Government also provided an update on the recently agreed Fiscal Framework Review as part of a discussion on budget flexibilities.

Ministers then discussed energy security, with a focus on network and grid infrastructure and funding for emerging renewable technologies.

Ministers noted their agreement to the revised F:ISC Terms of Reference and Operating Protocol.

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