

18 November 2025

Dear

**ATISN 26280**

Thank you for your request which I received on 21 October. You asked for:

- A list of all meetings between Welsh Government ministers and UK Government counterparts since 4 July 2024 where the issue of reforming Wales' funding arrangements was discussed, as well as the relevant minutes.
- All ministerial correspondence between Welsh Government ministers and the UK Government on the aforementioned issue.
- A list of all meetings between Welsh Government ministers and UK Government counterparts since 4 July 2024 where the issue of devolving justice powers to Wales – including youth justice and probation services – was discussed, as well as the relevant minutes.
- All ministerial correspondence between Welsh Government ministers and the UK Government on the aforementioned issue.
- A list of all meetings between Welsh Government ministers and UK Government counterparts since 4 July 2024 where the issue of reforming the Senedd's budgetary management tools – including the ability to enact resource to capital shifts, access to the Wales Reserve and drawdown and borrowing limits – was discussed, as well as the relevant minutes.
- All ministerial correspondence between Welsh Government ministers and the UK Government on the aforementioned issue.

**Our response**

Some of the information you requested is available in the public domain:

Date	Summary	Item's - publicly available
17 September 2024	Summary of Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Languages' (CSFWL) letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer dated 17/09/2024.	<a href="https://senedd.wales/media/rcehx2p0/gwyych20241009-1-en.pdf">https://senedd.wales/media/rcehx2p0/gwyych20241009-1-en.pdf</a>
24 September 2024	Statement by the First Minister – Intergovernmental Relations.	<a href="#">Plenary 24/09/2024 - Welsh Parliament</a>
26 September 2024	Letter from CSFWL to Finance Committee: notification of F:ISC meeting - 03/10/2025.	<a href="#">Ministerial Letter:</a>

03 October 2024	CSFWL Press Release ahead of Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) meeting.	<a href="#">Press Release</a>
03 October 2024	F:ISC Meeting communique.	<a href="#">Communiqué from the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee - 3 October 2024 - GOV.UK</a>
16 October 2024	Letter from CSFWL to Finance Committee: brief report of F:ISC meeting - 03/10/2024.	<a href="#">Ministerial Letter:</a> FIN(6)-22-24 PTN 1
25 November 2024	CSFWL response to Finance Committee Inquiry into fiscal Intergovernmental Relations.	<a href="#">Response from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language - 25 November 2024.pdf</a>
27 January 2025	Letter from CSFWL to Finance Committee: notification of F:ISC meeting - 27/02/2025.	<a href="#">Ministerial Letter:</a> FIN(6)-05-25 PTN 1
February 2025	Written Response to each Senedd subject committee providing evidence on the Draft Welsh Government budget 2025-26.	<a href="#">Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025-26</a>
12 February 2025	First Minister Evidence to Welsh Affairs Committee – The Work of the First Minister of Wales.	<a href="https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/15399/html/">committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/15399/html/</a>
27 February 2025	F:ISC communique	<a href="#">Communiqué from the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee - 27 February 2025 - GOV.UK</a>
27 February 2025	Press release from CSFWL on the F:ISC Meeting 27/02/2025.	<a href="#">Economic growth top of the agenda as UK Finance Ministers meet in Cardiff   GOV.WALES</a>
05 March 2025	Letter from CSFWL to Finance Committee; brief report of F:ISC meeting 27/02/2025.	<a href="#">Eich cyf</a>
26 March 2025	Written Statement from CSFWL: WG response to UK Spring Statement 2025.	<a href="#">Written Statement</a>
30 April 2025	CSFWL response to Finance Committee – Second Supplementary Budget 2024-25.	<a href="#">Eich cyf</a>
05 June 2025	Letter from CSFWL to Finance Committee: notification of F:ISC meeting on 26/06/2025.	<a href="#">Eich cyf</a>
26 June 2025	F:ISC communique	<a href="#">Communiqué from the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee - 26 June 2025 - GOV.UK</a>
08 July 2025	Letter from CSFWL to Finance Committee; brief report of F:ISC meeting 26/06/2025.	<a href="#">Eich cyf</a>
3 October 2025	Letter from CSFWL to Finance Committee notification of F:ISC meeting on 17/10/25.	<a href="#">Eich cyf</a>
17 October 2025	F:ISC communique	<a href="#">Communiqué from the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee - 17 October 2025 - GOV.UK</a>

07 August 2025	Written Statement from Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs – Preparing for the devolution of Justice.	<a href="#">Written Statement: Preparing for the devolution of justice (7 August 2025)   GOV.WALES</a>
31 October 2025	Letter from CSFWL to Finance Committee; brief report of F:ISC meeting 17/10/2025.	<a href="#">FIN6-24-25 PTN 9 - Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for the Finance and Welsh Language Financel.pdf</a>

I can confirm that all other information requested, where held, is exempt under Section 28. My reasons for withholding the information can be found at Annex 1.

### Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ or e-mail: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

### Application of exemptions

The Freedom of information Act provides a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.

The information requested that is captured by section 28 relates to intergovernmental correspondence and meeting notes.

This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of section 28 of the Freedom of Information Act and our subsequent consideration of the public interest test.

### Engagement of Section 28 – Relations within the UK

The Welsh Government believes that section 28 is engaged in relation to the information requested.

Guidance from the Commissioner on section 28 states:

*Section 28(1) of FOIA states that information is exempt if its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice relations between any administration in the UK and any other such administration. The administrations referred to are the Government of the United Kingdom, the Scottish Government, the Executive Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly, and the Welsh Government.*

*The arrangements in place between the four UK administrations provide for the sharing of information between them in appropriate circumstances. The success of these arrangements requires the UK administrations to work together in an environment of mutual trust, cooperation and respect. The purpose of the exemption is therefore to protect good relations between the different administrations within the UK, and the Commissioner considers that the exemption will be engaged where the disclosure of the information would be likely to harm trust, openness and the free and frank exchange of views between any of the administrations.*

As set out above, the expectation of confidentiality of discussion between Ministers is well established in both convention and in practice and is set out in the Devolution Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and the subsequent Review of Intergovernmental Relations, both jointly agreed between the four UK administrations.

The Welsh Government considers the release of the information requested would amount to a break from the convention, MoU and Review. It would represent the removal of the presumed 'safe space' created by the convention/MoU. It follows that it is likely to make relations with the UK Government more difficult in that it is likely to prejudice the Welsh Government's ability to continue constructive discussion at Ministerial and official level with UK Government.

The Welsh Government is actively pursuing the areas covered in this request.

Furthermore, the Welsh Government considers the release of information requested may prejudice relations with the Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Executive.

### **The balance of public interest**

Welsh Government acknowledges the general public interest in openness and transparency that release would engender. We recognise there are public interest considerations which would favour disclosure; disclosure could inform the public about the Welsh Government's actions and may add to understanding of relations between the Welsh Government and UK Government and the matters under consideration.

However, there is a significant public interest in ensuring there are effective relations between the Welsh Government and UK Government, and the Welsh Government and other administrations. At this stage of dialogue, the Welsh Government believes it is in the public interest for trust and confidence between the administrations to be maintained. The material reflects an ongoing process rather than completed policy and disclosure would lead to misunderstanding of the negotiations.

The prospect of future disclosure of the nature or content of discussions risks affecting the levels of candour and confidentiality between the Welsh Government and UK Government on these and other issues in future, as well as between the two administrations and the Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Executive. If the content of discussions were routinely made public there is a risk this will inhibit the ability of ministers and officials to be frank with one another. In all cases, the Welsh Government would likely need to take mitigating measures to address concerns and risks in relationships with other administrations.