

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution  
Derek Mackay MSP



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Bruce Crawford MSP  
Convener  
Finance and Constitution Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

13 February 2017

Dear Bruce

#### **FINANCE MINISTERS QUADRILATERAL**

I write to notify the Committee that I will be participating in a Finance Ministers' Quadrilateral meeting tomorrow. The meeting will be held in Edinburgh and attendees include the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Finance Ministers in the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

The agenda for the meeting will include discussion of the implications of the outcome of the EU Referendum; the prospects for the UK Budget next month; the UK Government's efficiency review; the impact of the UK Government's plans to change its annual budget timetable; and the interaction between UK Government and devolved administrations' tax policy. I will also raise the issue of Police and Fire VAT.

I will provide the Committee with a report on the meeting in due course.

**DEREK MACKAY**

## PROPOSED AGENDA

### Finance Ministers' Quadrilateral Meeting

**Meeting date:** 14 February 2017  
**Meeting time:** 12:00-13:00  
**Location:** St Andrew's House, Edinburgh  
**Attendees:** David Gauke, Chief Secretary, HM Treasury (Chair)

#### Scotland

Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Constitution  
Andrew Watson, Scottish Government  
Colin McAllister, Special Adviser

#### Northern Ireland

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, Minister of Finance  
Sean Kerr, PS  
Eoin Rooney, Special Adviser  
Jeff McGuinness, Finance official

#### Wales

Mark Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary  
Rebecca Lewis, Personal Secretary  
Madeleine Brindley, Special Adviser  
Margaret Davies, Deputy Director Strategic Budgeting  
Ed Sheriff, Head of Fiscal Strategy

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
12.00pm	Forward look to UK Government Budget
12.15pm	UK Government Efficiency review
12.25pm	Interaction between Administrations' Budget timetables
12.40pm	Interaction between Administrations' tax policies
12.55pm	AOB

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11 April 2017

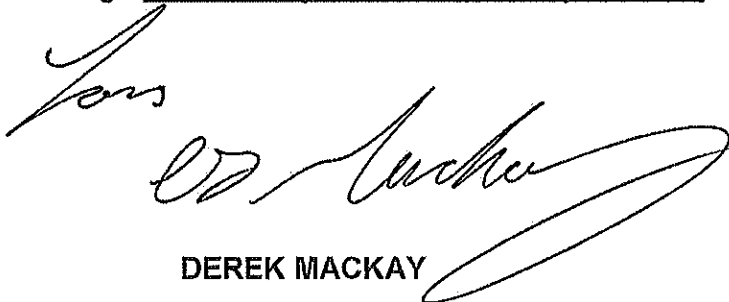
*Dear Bruce,*

Following on from my letter of 13 February 2017, where I informed you that I was due to meet the Chief Secretary to the Treasury at the Finance Ministers' Quadrilateral, I can now update the Finance Committee on the key points from that meeting. Please accept my apologies for the short delay in writing to you with this information.

I met with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Finance Ministers from Northern Ireland and Wales in Edinburgh on 14 February 2017.

The meeting followed the agenda that I outlined in my previous letter and focused on the prospects for the March Budget and areas of common interest in relation to the economy, public finances, the budget timetable and Brexit. Each administration set out their views on priorities for the March Budget and agreed to continue to engage with each other on the practical issues presented by the changes that are being made to the annual timetable for the UK Budget, including the relationship with devolved fiscal powers. As indicated in advance, I also raised the issue of Police and Fire VAT with the Chief Secretary.

We also discussed Brexit and the process of engagement with the devolved administrations. The following link provides a copy of a Ministerial statement that the devolved administrations issued following the meeting - <http://news.gov.scot/news/clarity-on-brexit>.

*Derek Mackay*  


DEREK MACKAY