

DP 1308/07-11

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Jane Hutt AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Fusnes a'r Gyllideb
Minister for Business and Budget



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

David Laws MP
Chief Secretary to the
Treasury
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Rd
London
SW1 2HQ

Dear David,

12th May 2010

May I first of all congratulate you on your appointment. You have one of the most important jobs in Cabinet and I know you will face some huge challenges as the economy continues to emerge into recovery and we take the action that is needed to cut the deficit. All of us in Government across the UK will need to work together to meet these challenges.

I and my predecessor have enjoyed extremely constructive relationships with successive Chief Secretaries. Relationships at official level are also very good. Of course we do not always agree on every issue, but we value our good relationship with the Treasury very highly. I hope this can continue in the same way in the future, despite the challenges we will undoubtedly face.

With this in mind, an early meeting with you would be very helpful, constructive and welcome. I appreciate, of course, that you will have a full agenda over the coming weeks, however, a meeting in the next few weeks – well ahead of an 'emergency' Budget – is needed to discuss a number of key current issues.

I will ask my office to contact yours immediately to arrange a mutually convenient date and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,
Jane

Lewis, Mandy (DFMC- ABLM)

From: Lewis, Mandy (DFMC- ABLM)
Sent: 20 May 2010 10:49
To: Thomas, Delyth (Assembly - MRS)
Cc: Stapleton, Marion (DFMC - ABLM); PS Minister for Business & Budget
Subject: Plenary Tuesday

Attachments: cst-12 may.pdf

Delyth

In the course of answering questions following the Business Statement in Plenary on Tuesday this week, the Minister for Business and Budget referred to a letter she had written to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. I am arranging translation of the letter (attached) so that it can be published as part of the Record but I also wish to deposit a copy in the Library please. Hard copy to follow.

Jane Hutt: I repeat what I said last week with regard to our concerns about the risk to the economic recovery as a result of an in-year emergency budget, given that we have set our budget, with the Assembly's approval, for 2010-11. We are working actively to prepare for our 2011-12 budget and we look forward to the forthcoming comprehensive spending review. It would be inappropriate for Wales to suffer large in-year cuts, as it would destabilise the budgets, and, more importantly, front-line public services. We welcome any flexibility, but what I would like to secure from the parties represented on your side of the Chamber—this goes for your Liberal Democrat colleagues as well—is a response from the **Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to whom I wrote immediately after his name was announced last Wednesday**. As the Minister with budgetary responsibility in Wales, I congratulated him but said that I would like an early meeting to discuss these issues so that we can handle this responsibly and constructively.



cst-12 may.pdf
(109 KB)

Many thanks

Mandy

Mandy Lewis

Assembly Business and Legislation Management Division / Is-adran Busnes y Cynulliad a Rheoli Deddfwriaeth

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