

Matthew O'Toole MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Finance
Northern Ireland Assembly
Via e-mail

8 September 2025

Dear Matthew,

The Northern Ireland Fiscal Council Bill

Many thanks for your letter seeking the Committee's views on the Northern Ireland Fiscal Council Bill (the Bill).

I note that the Fiscal Council has been operating on a non-statutory basis for a number of years and that this Bill effectively formalises those arrangements.

As a Committee, we consider the financial implications of each Bill introduced in the Senedd as a matter of course. While it would not be appropriate for us to consider the financial implications of this Bill in detail, it is encouraging that a Financial Memorandum has been produced and that its running costs for 2024-25 has been provided. It is also helpful that the Fiscal Council's functions and governance arrangements are made transparent through this legislation.

We are also generally supportive of the Fiscal Council's role and are grateful to be informed of this latest development. There are no current plans for a similar fiscal body in Wales, although we are naturally interested in the development of the Council in Northern Ireland, including how its functions and performance will be held to account by the Assembly.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to engage with you on this issue and would be interested in hearing more about your consideration of this Bill and the development of the Fiscal Council at the next meeting of the Interparliamentary Finance Committee Forum in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peredur Owen Griffiths', written in a cursive style.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.