

P-04-436 Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales – Correspondence from the petitioner to the Clerking team, 08.09.13

As with my previous comment it is quite obvious that the Minister for Finance has absolutely no interest in providing any information to the people of Wales over the finances of Wales. The Minister has repeatedly missed the point of the petition, first ignoring the revenue aspect and secondly interpreting the petition wrongly. In the reply the Minister claims there may be a need for the publication of certain devolved taxes. This is not the point of the petition. The point was to provide a financial breakdown of all revenue and expenditure for Wales, both devolved and non-devolved.

If the Minister had looked up the "Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland" website she would have seen the following.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Economy/GERS>

"The aim of GERS is to enhance public understanding of fiscal issues in Scotland. The primary objective is to estimate a set of public sector accounts for Scotland through detailed analysis of official UK and Scottish Government finance statistics. GERS estimates the contribution of revenue raised in Scotland toward the goods and services provided for the benefit of the people of Scotland. The report is designed to allow users to understand and analyse Scotland's fiscal position under different scenarios."

The Minister has now passed the buck to the Conservative led government in Westminster. It's now 16 years since we voted for devolution and it's worth asking what the point was if Welsh Ministers would rather leave it for London to sort out.

Stuart Evans