

Spring Conference 2025

POLICY MOTION

Fair Funding for Wales

MOTION AS AGREED BY CONFERENCE

Conference notes:

- A. That public spending on capital (infrastructure) is lower per capita than the UK average, despite the considerable geographic, economic, and historical barriers faced by Wales.
- B. That this deficit has been exacerbated by the classification of HS2 as an England and Wales project, despite the route being 100% in England, which deprives Wales of up to an estimated £4.6bn in Barnett consequentials.
- C. That leaving the EU means that west Wales and the Valleys no longer have access to European Structural and Investment Programme (ESIF) convergence funding, and that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) provides significantly less funding for Wales, with an estimated shortfall of £772m in 2021-2022.
- D. That the Crown Estate is devolved in Scotland but not in Wales, that the Welsh Crown Estate assets are valued at £853m, and that the Crown Estate refuses to provide a breakdown of the annual revenues it derives from Wales.
- E. That the UK Labour government has refused to reclassify HS2, to rejoin European institutions, or to devolve the Crown Estate to Wales.

Conference believes:

- I. That Wales is systematically under-funded as a consequence of these UK Government decisions.
- II. That both the Conservative Party and the Labour Party are guilty of robbing Wales blind over HS2, structural funding, and the Crown Estate.

Conference calls for:

1. The immediate reclassification of HS2 as an England-only project, backdated to the start of the project, making Barnett consequentials available to the Welsh Government.
2. Complete the devolution of responsibility for rail services to Wales, and review the mechanism through which the UK Treasury classifies transport infrastructure projects, so that such mis-classifications cannot happen in future.
3. The devolution of the Welsh Crown Estate to Wales.
4. The rules of the UKSPF to be altered so that Wales receives no less funding annually than it received from the ESIF (in real terms), until convergence of incomes and life expectancy with the rest of the UK.