



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Economy and Fair Work Committee

Neil Gray
Cabinet Secretary for
Wellbeing Economy, Fair
Work and Energy

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Sent by email only

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Dear Neil

Earlier this month, the Committee held a business planning session. During discussions, it was agreed it would be helpful to receive an update from the Scottish Government on a number of matters. I appreciate, following the Ministerial changes, some issues may now lie within other portfolio areas but for ease I felt it easiest to address all issues in a single letter to you.

Firstly, to follow up the Scottish Government's response of 19 February 2023 to the Committee's inquiry report on Retail and Town Centres, the Committee asks for an update on allocations made from the £100m to support business digital capability. The Committee would also welcome an update on progress to develop a retail Fair Work agreement. Secondly, from that same inquiry report, the Committee would be grateful for an update on plans to reform Compulsory Purchase Orders.

Separately, the Committee noted the Auditor General for Scotland's report, published in February, following the 2021/22 annual audit. Paragraphs 44 - 60 of that report relate to financial support for private companies. The AGS recommendation was that the Scottish Government should further develop the framework for investment in private companies, making a direct link between risk tolerance and risk appetite for investment. The Committee would be grateful for an update on the work undertaken to respond to this recommendation.

Finally, and more broadly, the Committee noted a number of Scottish Government strategies, planned strategies and plans including NSET, the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan, the draft Green Industrial Strategy and the hydrogen action plan. The Committee asks what mechanisms the Scottish Government has in place to monitor the cohesiveness of its strategies and plans.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Claire Baker

Claire Baker MSP
Convener