



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Economy and Fair Work Committee

Kate Forbes
Deputy First Minister and
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic

13 November 2024

Dear Kate,

Rural enterprise support

The business support organisation GrowBiz, that operates in rural Scotland, recently wrote to the Committee. It highlighted the impact of delays in receiving Scottish Government funding and forwarded its correspondence with you, including your response of 31 October.

The Committee discussed the correspondence in private at its meeting last week, noted that emergency funding has now been identified from the Rural Affairs portfolio but agreed to write to you for further information.

In its letter to you of 15 October, GrowBiz stated it had been advised by Ms Gougeon that the Rural Directorate had no enterprise budget for the current year. The Committee asks for clarification of which budget line, in previous years, had been the source of funding allocated to GrowBiz. Secondly, the Committee notes that the Scottish Government budget for the current year, under the Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands portfolio, includes a line entitled Community Led Local Delivery in the sum of £12.2m to “support economic, social and environmental well-being” and “promote economic development.” The Committee asks for an explanation of how these monies have been allocated and confirmation that no funding is available from this source for GrowBiz.

I would be grateful for a response by 27 November.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Smyth MSP
Convener

Contact: Economy and Fair Work Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email: economyandfairwork.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.