



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

29 January 2025

Dear stakeholder

### Budget Scrutiny 2025-26

The Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee will be holding a post budget session with the Minister for Equalities on 25 February and is keen to get your views to inform that session.

The Committee previously agreed a three-year pre-budget scrutiny plan to look at each principle of human rights budgeting in turn:

- participation in year 1
- transparency in year 2
- accountability in year 3

For the 2025-26 period, the Committee focused its work on Budget transparency. The Committee was particularly interested in transparency in the context of human rights budgeting, and the role of National Outcomes in supporting transparent and data-driven decision-making and mainstreaming equalities across portfolios.

The Committee's scrutiny also explored the Scottish Government's progress on implementing [the recommendations made by the Equalities and Human Rights Budget Advisory Group \(EHRBAG\) in 2021](#).

The Scottish Government published its Budget 2025-26 on 4 December, and the Committee received [a response](#) from the Minister for Equalities to [its recommendations](#). SPICe's post-Budget analysis highlighted [changes to the Equality and Fairer Budget Scotland Statement \(EFBSS\)](#) and gave an overview of [the Budget from a human rights budgeting perspective](#).

This session with the Minister will be an opportunity for the Committee to understand how equalities considerations were taken into account in making decisions on this year's budget. It will also be an opportunity to reflect on last year's work on transparency and build toward this year's work on accountability.

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Contact: Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email [EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

To inform that session the Committee would be grateful for your views on:

- The extent to which you believe that equalities considerations did inform decisions in this year's budget?
- To what extent did equalities considerations inform decisions across portfolio areas?
- How transparent a process was the Scottish Government's development of its budget this year?
- To what extent does this year's budget reflect a cross-cutting approach to equalities, reflecting consideration of issues such as rurality?
- Are there any other issues you would like to suggest the Committee should raise about the development of this year's budget from an equalities perspective?

We would be grateful for a response by **Thursday 13 February**.

Yours sincerely

### **Committee Clerks**

Correspondence issued to:

Audit Scotland  
Engender  
CEMVO Scotland  
Scottish Women's Budget Group  
Age Scotland  
CRER – Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights  
Inclusion Scotland  
Disability Equality Scotland  
Equality Network  
Close the Gap  
SCVO – Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations  
Scottish Rural Action