

Permanent Secretary
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Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee

By Email

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Dear Convener,

Thank you for your letter addressed to my predecessor and sent to my office this morning. I wanted to take the opportunity to reply personally and to introduce myself given I took up post as Permanent Secretary for the Scottish Government on 1st January 2022.

I recently appeared before the Public Audit Committee to provide evidence on behalf of the Scottish Government and, as per the message from my office of 7th March, I would like to reinforce again that I am more than happy to meet with you and the Finance and Public Administration Committee if you would find this helpful.

I also wanted to clarify briefly the point regarding Civil Servants appearing before Parliament given your letter today – as Civil Servants, we must always appear on behalf of or to represent the views of our Ministers, and not in a personal capacity, always consistent with the Civil Service Code. Given this, it now falls to me, not Ms Evans, to appear before Parliament and any appearance should fall to me as the serving Permanent Secretary. Given I have been in post since January, Ms Evans was advised accordingly, and I hope we can now meet to discuss the future as soon as would be convenient for you and your Committee.

Best wishes,

John-Paul Marks
Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government