



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Shona Robison MSP
Deputy First Minister and
Cabinet Secretary for Finance

By email

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Dear Shona

Thank you for your letter of 14 September 2023 in which you now propose a publication date for the Scottish Budget 2024-25 of 19 December 2023. The Committee considered this correspondence at its meeting on 19 September.

As you are aware from our letter of 5 September, the Committee was content with a publication date of 14 December, in light of the announcement that the UK Autumn Statement would take place on 22 November. Our view remains that this timeframe would best strike a balance between ensuring proper time for the preparation of forecasts and to take informed decisions on budget proposals, while protecting time to achieve effective and meaningful parliamentary scrutiny. We also believe that the Written Agreement between the Committee and the Scottish Government, which states that the Scottish Budget will normally be published no more than three working weeks after the UK Autumn Statement, should be observed wherever possible.

The Committee is however keen to continue constructive dialogue with the Scottish Government on this matter. To ensure effective scrutiny within the timeframe you propose, we intend to consider and publish our report on the Scottish Budget 2024-25 by the end of January 2024. In line with last year's approach, the usual Committee Conveners' debate could then be scheduled shortly thereafter.

I hope we can reach agreement regarding the above proposal.

Yours sincerely

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee