

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance
Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit
airson Ionmhas

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Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament

By email to: FPA.committee@parliament.scot

29 September 2023

Dear Kenneth,

Timing of the 2024-25 Scottish Budget

Thank you for your letter of 20 September.

Whilst I understand the Committee's views, and would of course wish to adhere to the Written Agreement wherever possible, my officials considered various options, carefully looking at how we could make 14 December work. Due to the reasons set out in my letter dated 14 September, I came to the view that unfortunately this date would not be feasible.

With all of this in mind, and to ensure a fiscally responsible and meaningful budget, I intend to confirm 19 December 2023 as the date on which I will publish the 2024-25 Scottish Budget.

I acknowledge Committee's wish to publish its report by the end of January 2024. I understand that my officials are working with the Committee's Clerks on the finer details of the Bill timeline, bearing in mind the requirements of Standing Orders and of the Scotland Act 1998.

I look forward to engaging with the Committee throughout this process.

I have copied this letter to the Scottish Fiscal Commission for information.

Yours sincerely,

SHONA ROBISON

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