



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Committee Conveners

All correspondence c/o

By email

Finance and Public
Administration Committee Clerks
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The Scottish Parliament
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3 May 2024

Dear Convener

Parliamentary scrutiny of proposed national outcomes

As you are aware, the Finance and Public Administration Committee is leading on the Scottish Parliament's forthcoming scrutiny of the proposed national outcomes arising from the Scottish Government's recent review. This review is required every five years under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

The Statutory Report setting out the proposed national outcomes was laid in the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Government on Wednesday 1 May. This report includes further details of the review, information on the consultation undertaken by the Government and how the proposed national outcomes have taken account of the evidence gathered.

On 6 March I wrote to you seeking views on a proposed approach to joint scrutiny of these proposed national outcomes together with what you considered an appropriate time for scrutiny. The scrutiny approach proposed included:

- A joint approach to the call for views and news release
- SPICe analysis of the written responses received which is then passed to the relevant committees to decide what action they wish to take, including whether to respond formally in a report to Parliament.
- A debate on the published reports.

Thank you to those Committees who have confirmed formally and informally that you are content with this approach and for your views on the timescale for scrutiny. In my letter of 6 March, I committed to writing to you with further information and I have therefore set out the next steps below.

A draft call for views has been provided separately for comment and, subject to any substantive comments, the call for views is expected to be launched on Monday 13 May on the Finance and Public Administration Committee webpage. Committees can then link to this page should they wish to. The deadline for responses is anticipated to be Friday 28 June.

The Finance and Public Administration Committee (FPAC) will also issue a news release to launch the call for views but any other Committee can undertake their own media activity, following issuing of the FPAC news release, should they wish to promote it with their own stakeholders.

As previously agreed, the written responses received to the joint call for views will be published and analysed by SPICe and that analysis shared with Committees. Each Committee can then decide what further scrutiny they wish to undertake. Committee clerks and SPICe researchers will liaise to enable each Committee undertaking further scrutiny to be aware of others' activities. In the meantime SPICe has produced a blog summarising the review process and proposed changes to outcomes.

In my letter of 6 March I also sought views on the appropriate timescale for completing Parliamentary scrutiny of the national outcomes given the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance had committed to providing more than the statutory 40 days provided for the first review in 2018.

Having considered the views provided by Committees and following discussions with the Scottish Government, I have written to the Deputy First Minister proposing the deadline, by which the Parliament will provide its consultation response, is 29 November 2024.

Based on this timescale, it is anticipated that any Committee wishing to provide written views (in a report or letter) on the proposed national outcomes, and any other aspects of the statutory report, should do so by week ending 22 November at the latest in order to inform the Parliamentary debate anticipated to be held during week commencing 25 November.

I would be grateful if you could treat this letter as private until after the joint call for views is launched in order to ensure we maximise any media coverage.

Should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact the FPAC Clerks who can be contacted on fpaccommittee@parliament.scot.

Yours sincerely

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee