



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

Sent via email

24 March 2024

Dear Convener,

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government notified the Commission on 24 February that the Scottish Government would publish its Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) on 29 May 2025. The Commission will publish its next set of economic and fiscal forecasts at the same time.

Now that senior Scottish Government officials and the Commission's staff have agreed the timetable, I am writing to the Committee to make it aware of the key forecast deadlines.

The deadlines for the Scottish Fiscal Commission providing forecasts to the Scottish Government are 4:00 PM on the following dates:

- Round 1: Thursday 3 April with Scottish Income Tax at midday on Friday 4 April
- Round 2: Friday 25 April
- Round 3: Friday 2 May by midday
- Final forecasts and policy costings: Monday 12 May

The forecasts are provided on a confidential basis to the Scottish Government to inform the development of the MTFS.

The deadlines for the Scottish Government to provide the Commission with information on policies are 4:00 PM on the following dates:

- Round 1: Monday 31 March
- Round 2: Tuesday 22 April
- Economy moving measures: Tuesday 29 April
- Public sector pay policy: Tuesday 29 April

- Tax and social security policies: Wednesday 7 May
- Borrowing, spending, and funding information: Tuesday 13 May

Timings may be altered during the forecast period, subject to the agreement of both the Government and Commission. Policy changes submitted after the final deadline for policy measures will not be included in the forecast unless otherwise agreed. The Commission will always endeavour to include the effect of policy changes in its forecasts.

We will report back on the forecast process in our report.

I have copied the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government and the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice into this letter, which will also be published on the Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

Professor Graeme Roy
Chair