



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet
Secretary for Finance and Local
Government

By email only

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

netzero.committee@parliament.scot

Friday 5 July 2024

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT BUDGET 2025/2026

The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee has decided to focus our scrutiny of the Scottish Government's budget for 2025/26 on the Scottish Government's strategic spending to achieve the Climate Change Committee's "balanced pathway" to a net-zero Scotland by 2045.

I am therefore writing to ask you for details of how—

- The need to ensure spending decisions are focused on the emission reduction target of net zero by 2045 will influence your approach to prioritising spending of your portfolio budget;
- How you will prioritise areas of the economy contributing most to emissions (transport and agriculture) within your portfolio;
- Examples of progress you hope to make on last year's budget;
- Which budget lines you intend to move from negative/neutral to positive in the detailed breakdown of the carbon assessment of the Budget.

The [Verity House Agreement](#) includes three priorities which the Scottish Government and local government share: tackling poverty, delivering sustainable public services and a just transition to net zero. Given the increasing pressures on local government budgets, particularly around the area of social care, how confident are you that councils are dedicating sufficient resources to tackling net zero?

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response by 2 August 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Mountain

Edward Mountain MSP

Convener

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee