



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Professor Graeme Roy
Chair
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8 November 2022

Dear Graeme

Scottish Fiscal Commission's Approach to Fiscal Sustainability Consultation Paper

Congratulations on your recent appointment as the new Chair of the Scottish Fiscal Commission.

Thank you for inviting the Scottish Parliament's Public Audit Committee to respond to the Scottish Fiscal Commission's (SFC's) call for views on its Approach to Fiscal Sustainability Consultation Paper published in August 2022.

The Committee welcomes the SFC's proposals to produce a Fiscal Sustainability Report at least once each parliamentary session, setting out a long-term outlook for Scotland's public finances. We echo the Auditor for General Scotland's (AGS's) comments to the Finance and Public Administration (FPA) Committee in August 2021 that such a report would be "a valuable addition to the information available to support Parliamentary scrutiny".

We note that the FPA Committee plans to consider the SFC's first Fiscal Sustainability Report after its publication in March 2023. You may be aware that the Public Audit Committee's primary focus is to examine audited accounts and reports produced by the AGS rather than to consider reports by any other bodies or to

conduct inquiries. Nevertheless, we believe that the SFC's projections looking 50 years ahead at significant challenges such as demography and climate change, has the opportunity to better inform the AGS's audit work, which we will consider in due course.

You may be interested to know that the Committee will hear from the AGS on his forthcoming briefing on 'Scotland's Public Finances – challenges and risks' in the coming months and will continue to take an interest in his audit work on fiscal sustainability.

Yours sincerely

Richard Leonard MSP
Convener