

27 November 2024

Richard Leonard MSP
Convener
Public Audit Committee
Scottish Parliament

Dear Convener

The 2023/24 Audit of the Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts

On 7 November 2024, I gave evidence to the Committee on my s22 report on the audit of the Scottish Government's Consolidated Accounts. I agreed to check if Audit Scotland holds any additional information on the interest rates applied to the Scottish Government's resource and capital borrowing.

The Committee was interested in understanding the interest rates on resource borrowing given that they are shorter term, increasing in value and are subject to market volatility. Our report does not provide that information, but our records indicate that the interest rates applied over the period 2020/21 – 2023/24 ranged from 0.26% to 4.23% across the total resource borrowing of £677,000,000.

Total capital borrowing of £2,055,000,000 has been taken out over the period 2017/18 to 2023/24. Loan values range from £15,000,000 to £450,000,000, over 10 to 25 year periods with interest rates ranging from 0.56% to 3.95%.

We do not hold any information around whether additional interest rates are applied over the course of the loan or whether there are any trigger events. The Committee may wish to follow up on this matter with the Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Boyle
Auditor General for Scotland