



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Public Audit Committee

Lesley Fraser  
Director-General Corporate  
Scottish Government

**14 November 2024**

Dear Ms Fraser

### Tackling digital exclusion

Thank you for providing evidence to the Public Audit Committee at its meeting on [31 October 2024](#), as part of its scrutiny of the joint Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) and Accounts Commission report, [Tackling digital exclusion](#) which was published on 22 August 2024.

During the evidence session, the Committee sought confirmation that the Scottish Government accepted the findings and recommendations in the report. In your reply you confirmed that the Scottish Government accepted “the recommendations and the general points that the Auditor General has helpfully made”.

The Committee later heard from the Chief Digital Officer that due to changes in the publication date of the report as a result of the UK General Election and challenges in scheduling diaries, the Joint Digital Strategy Leadership Board had yet to meet to consider the report. The Chief Digital Officer went on to state that—

“We have not had a meeting of the joint ministerial and COSLA group since the report’s publication, and that will take place, but we have been meeting fairly actively in respect of the report” and that “the report has been discussed by senior officials; it has been briefed on and set out for ministers, and they understand its contents.”

The Committee notes the Chief Digital Officer’s confirmation that the Joint Digital Strategy Leadership Board is scheduled to meet in November when it will consider the report.

**While the Scottish Government said at the outset that it accepted all of the recommendations, the panellists appeared less clear on whether they agreed with the detail of those recommendations when questioned. The Committee therefore remains unclear regarding the process by which the Scottish Government accepted the recommendations in the joint AGS and Accounts Commission report, given the joint ministerial and COSLA group has not met**

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**since it was published. We therefore seek clarity regarding this governance process and who in the Scottish Government was responsible for signing off the acceptance of the recommendations ahead of the Committee meeting.**

The Committee requests a response by **12 December 2024**.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard Leonard MSP  
Convener**