



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Public Audit Committee

Michelle Quinn  
Interim Director-General Net Zero  
Scottish Government

**2 October 2024**

Dear Ms Quinn

### **The 2022/23 audit of the Water Industry Commission for Scotland**

Thank you for providing evidence to the Public Audit Committee at its meeting on [19 September 2024](#), as part of its scrutiny of the Auditor General for Scotland's section 22 report, [The 2022/23 audit of the Water Industry Commission for Scotland](#) (WICS).

During the evidence session, the Committee sought clarity on the discussion that took place between WICS and the Scottish Government regarding the arrangements for the departure of the former Chief Executive of WICS in advance of his resignation on 31 December 2023.

During the oral evidence session on 19 September, the Chair of WICS Board referred to telephone conversations they had with the Scottish Government Sponsorship Team on 19 and 20 December, where approval for the arrangements for the departure of the former Chief Executive through a settlement agreement were sought and received. However, during that same evidence session, you indicated that the use of a settlement agreement was not “discussed or presented” to the Scottish Government until January 2024.

**The Committee asks for a chronological list of events that took place in the lead up to the former Chief Executive's resignation including—**

- **what discussions took place and by whom.**
- **when the Scottish Government first became aware that a settlement agreement had been put in place.**

**The Committee asks that as part of your response, a copy of all notes or records made by the Sponsorship Team of these discussions is provided.**

During the oral evidence session on 19 September, you also undertook to provide the Committee with the following information:

Contact: Public Audit Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.  
Email: [publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

- The Scottish Government's limit on what staff can spend on a meal, per person (Column 10)
- The Scottish Government's power to remove a board chair of a public body. (Column 40).
- When the independent review of WICS and the internal review of the Scottish Government's sponsorship arrangements will be published (Column 49).

The Committee requests a response by **6 November 2024**.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard Leonard MSP**  
**Convener**