

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

2nd Meeting, 2023 (Session 6)

Tuesday 17th January 2023

Evidence session with the Scottish Government on the Scottish Budget 2023-2024

Background

1. On 22 December 2022, the Scottish Government introduced the [Budget \(Scotland\) \(No. 2\) Bill](#). The Budget Bill is how the Parliament agrees public spending in Scotland and is introduced to the Parliament every year ahead of the new financial year starting in April.

2. In addition to the Bill, the [Scottish Government published its 2023-24 draft Scottish Budget on 15 December](#), which sets out in more detail the Scottish Government's spending plans for the coming year. Also included in the [supporting documentation](#) for the Budget is a 'Level 4' data spreadsheet, providing a further breakdown of expenditure on matters within the remit of the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport. [All documents pertaining to the budget for 23-24 can be found on the Scottish Government's website.](#)

Pre-budget scrutiny by the NZET Committee

3. Subject committees such as the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee normally undertake pre-budget scrutiny each year on matters within its remit. The aim of this is to inform the Scottish Government's thinking around the preparation of its Budget.

4. On 10 November 2022, [the Committee wrote to the Scottish Government](#) setting out a number of conclusions and recommendations from its pre-budget scrutiny. The Committee's pre-budget scrutiny letter captured key issues and questions on—

- The Fair Fares Review and bus travel;
- Electric vehicle charging point infrastructure;
- Scottish Government's response to the Committee's report on its energy price rises inquiry;
- The publication of the final Hydrogen Action Plan and associated capital investment, as well as the anticipated Energy and Just Transition Strategy; and
- The resources of Scotland's environmental regulators.

5. The Committee also sought details of the Scottish Government's approach to the Joint Review of Budget as it relates to climate change.
6. [The Committee received a response from the Scottish Government on 21 December 2022.](#)

Evidence session on 17 January 2023

7. On 17 January 2023, the Committee will hold an evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport to discuss the Scottish Budget 2023-24.
8. The main purpose of the session is to explore the Cabinet Secretary's budgetary priorities within the portfolio for the coming year.
9. The Committee will hear from—
 - Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Scottish Government;
 - Simon Fuller, Deputy Director, Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services, Scottish Government;
 - Ross Miller, Head of Operations, Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Scottish Government;
 - Jon Rathjen, Deputy Director for Water Policy & Directorate for Energy and Climate Change Operations, Scottish Government; and
 - Kerry Twyman, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Transport Scotland.

Clerks
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee