



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Shona Robison, MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and
Local Government
The Scottish Government

Via email only

Equalities Human Rights and Civil Justice
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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Dear Cabinet Secretary

Budget 2025-26: Pre-Budget Scrutiny

I am pleased to advise that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee has agreed its high-level approach to pre-budget scrutiny for the forthcoming Scottish Government's draft budget 2025-26.

This year, in line with previous years, the Committee's focus will be on human rights budgeting with the Committee looking, in turn, at each of the three core principles of human rights budgeting (participation, transparency and accountability). Following our focus on participation last year, this year we will turn our focus to transparency of the budget process.

The Committee will hold evidence sessions in October and once its scrutiny is concluded, will write to the Scottish Government as usual with its findings.

In addition to the above, as part of its approach, the Committee agreed it would be helpful to request an update from the Scottish Government on its equalities data mainstreaming work.

Accordingly, I should be grateful if the Scottish Government is able to provide an update on its

- Equality Data Improvement Programme
- Equality Evidence Strategy

The Committee notes that the programme board publishes minutes and updates of milestones on its webpage, but a more general overview of progress towards the Government's strategic aims and signposting to upcoming activities would be useful

to enable the Committee to have the most up to date information available ahead of its budget scrutiny process.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Clerk to the Committee at EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Adam, MSP
Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee