



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Public Administration Committee

John Swinney MSP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet
Secretary for Covid Recovery
Scottish Government

By email

All correspondence c/o
Finance and Public
Administration Committee Clerks
Room T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
FPA.committee@parliament.scot

4 October 2022

Dear Deputy First Minister

Thank you for your letter of 30 September in relation to the timing of the Scottish Budget 2023-24, which the Committee considered at our meeting on 4 October. We welcome your efforts to initiate dialogue on this matter, building on productive collaboration between the Committee and Ministers around budget processes and timetables in previous years.

The Committee understands the importance of ensuring proper time for both the Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) to complete its analysis for its Economic and Fiscal Forecasts and for the Scottish Government to be able to take informed decisions on budget proposals. We also consider that it is vital that we seek to protect time to achieve effective and meaningful parliamentary scrutiny of the final Scottish Budget 2023-24 document once published. I am confident a balance can be struck to deliver the requirements of government, parliament and the SFC.

Given this, the Committee considers that the Scottish Budget 2023-24 document should be published on 15 December 2022, with the Committee then reporting its views as soon as possible after 24 January. The Committee is aware that the deadline for notifying the SFC of this publication date is Thursday 6 October and I am therefore writing to you now to enable that notification to take place this week.

The Committee looks forward to hearing from you regarding this proposal. In the meantime, we would be happy for the Clerks to the Committee to continue their ongoing dialogue with your officials.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Johnson MSP
Deputy Convener of the Finance and Public Administration Committee