



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Shona Robison MSP
Cabinet Secretary for
Finance and Local
Government

Local Government,
Housing and Planning Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email only

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Dear Shona,

Verity House Agreement

As you know, in the year that has passed since the Verity House Agreement (VHA) between the Scottish Government and COSLA was published, the Committee has closely monitored progress in respect of the various strands of work for which the VHA provides.

The Committee notes that the VHA committed both parties to agreeing a fiscal framework for local government along with a monitoring and accountability framework, drawing on proportionate reporting and data collection, to provide evidence and visibility over progress towards agreed shared outcomes, but that progress towards this has been slower than hoped.

The Committee understands that the Scottish Government and COSLA are working on a joint review of the VHA's first year of operation and looks forward to considering this when available. The Committee has agreed to invite a written progress update from both the Scottish Government and COSLA along with an indication of when the monitoring and accountability framework and the fiscal framework are expected to be agreed and published. I have also written to COSLA in similar terms.

Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee

Another strand of work on which the Committee has been monitoring progress relates to the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (SLARC)'s recommendations on councillor remuneration and expenses which were published in February.

The Committee took evidence on the report from members of SLARC followed by COSLA on 28 May and heard from COSLA that “there is a degree of urgency in the Scottish Government considering this and responding positively to it.”¹

The Committee agreed that it would take evidence on the Scottish Government response to SLARC’s recommendations when available and I would be grateful if you could confirm when the response is expected to be published.

Yours sincerely,

Ariane Burgess
Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

¹ [Official Report \(parliament.scot\)](https://www.parliament.scot)