



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Mairi Gougeon
Cabinet Secretary for
Rural Affairs, Land
Reform and Islands

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
c/o Clerk to the Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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27 June 2024

By email only

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Pre-budget scrutiny

The Committee has, today, launched its call for views ahead of its pre-budget scrutiny this autumn.

The pre-budget scrutiny will look at how last year's budget has impacted on meeting the national outcomes and service delivery; it will also focus on the Marine Directorate's budget.

To assist this scrutiny, it would be helpful if you could **provide the following information by Friday 9 August:**

- Organisational charts relating to both before and after the restructuring of Marine Scotland into the current Marine Directorate structure.
- Annual resource and capital budget allocations for Marine Scotland divisions (e.g. Science, Policy & Planning, Performance Aquaculture and Recreational Fisheries, Fisheries, Compliance, Aquaculture, Offshore Wind) within Marine Scotland from 2009-2023.
- Annual budget allocation for portfolios (e.g. SEDD, Compliance and Enforcement and other policy divisions) within Marine Directorate from 2023 (since organisational restructure) to present.
- Total number of staff employed within each Marine Scotland/Marine Directorate portfolio/division from 2009 to present.
- Annual budget allocation for the fisheries management programme and other research programmes broken down by division/portfolio within Marine Scotland Science and Marine Directorate SEDD from 2009-2023. Annual budget allocation for the Marine Directorate Labs in Aberdeen from 2009 to present.
- Annual income generated by Marine Scotland Science/Marine Directorate SEDD- from consultancy work from 2009 to present.

- The annual number of peer-reviewed research articles published by Marine Scotland Science/Marine Directorate SEDD from 2009 to present.
- Information on the status of procurement for replacement research vessels.

I look forward to discussing these issues with you further when you give evidence to the Committee as it concludes its pre-budget scrutiny on 25 September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finlay Carson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Finlay Carson MSP

Convener

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee