

Education and Culture Committee
Scrutiny of the 2013-14 Draft Budget

Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs

Thank you for your letter of 5 October 2012 regarding the Carbon Assessment of the Scottish Government's 2013-14 Draft Budget.

You asked how we achieved a reduction in the emissions relating to the budget for Culture compared to the assessment carried out for the 2012-13 Draft Budget. The Carbon Assessment estimates the emissions generated in the production of goods and services on which the budget is spent. While the Portfolio capital budget set out in the Draft Budget has increased in both cash and real terms, because the total Portfolio budget has reduced by £4.6m in real terms, consumption, and thereby emissions, has gone down as well.

You also asked how development of the 'Carbon Assessment of the 2013-14 Draft Budget' influenced how the draft budget was developed. The purpose of the Carbon Assessment of the Draft Budget is to provide Parliament with an estimate of the consumption-based emissions resulting from budget spending. It has not been used to support decision-making on a Portfolio level, though of course we are cognisant of the potential carbon savings that can be made when considering decisions on capital investment across the Portfolio.

In relation to your final question concerning the Report on Proposals and Policies setting out how it is proposed that statutory annual climate change targets up to 2027 will be met, the approach taken in the RPP is aimed to ensure that the most cost-effective, significant measures with high public support are implemented first. There are no measures within the RPP proposed by the Culture Portfolio, which is of course relatively small in Scottish Government terms, but the Portfolio is helping to achieve emission reduction targets through its capital improvement programme. The bodies in my portfolio are, like all public sector bodies in Scotland, subject to a set of statutory duties under section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act, including one to exercise their functions in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of Scotland's emissions reduction targets.

Historic Scotland published its Carbon Management Plan in 2011 which sets a 25% emissions reduction target over five years. A programme of invest to save projects has begun across its estate which will result in both carbon and financial savings. These include insulation to properties, upgrades to heating and lighting systems and controls, and climate change awareness training which is being offered to all staff. As mandated in the Energy Efficiency Action Plan, Historic Scotland is supporting energy efficiency improvements to the c.20% of buildings in Scotland that are pre-1919 in age. In September the agency published guidance for homeowners and a number of technical reports, and held a conference for professionals in the construction sector to disseminate the results of recent research.

The National Collections bodies will also receive capital budgets for storage improvements and estates maintenance which will, wherever possible, look to achieve both carbon and financial savings. The National Library is already well

ahead of its target to reduce emissions by 30% by 2014-15 and is in fact almost certain to achieve this in 2013.

I look forward to seeing you and the Committee on 23rd October.