Dear Convener,

SCDI welcomes the Finance Committee's call for evidence on the Scottish Futures Trust to inform its consideration of the draft budget 2017-18. Infrastructure development and utilisation are key enablers of improvements in productivity, innovation and internationalisation in the Scottish economy which we believe to be essential to long-term economic and social prosperity.

Attracting additional and maximising the benefits of investment are particularly important given the current fiscal outlook, and there is also an imperative to focus on the long-term, developing the digitally-smart, low carbon, resilient infrastructure which will enhance competitiveness and improve national outcomes, and support the transition to a sustainable economy.

SCDI has worked closely with the Scottish Futures Trust since its creation to facilitate dialogue with our broad-based membership and to develop and make progress with specific projects. We are unable to respond to the Committee's call for evidence on this occasion due to the timescale and our current workload, however, if it would be helpful to the Committee, we would be happy to report back on the key points from a policy discussion event between Barry White, Chief Executive of the Scottish Futures Trust and a wide range of SCDI members, which we will be holding later this month in Edinburgh.

Yours sincerely.

Ross Martin
Chief Executive