

Gordon Lindhurst MSP  
Convener, Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee  
Scottish Parliament

Via email

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your recent report, “How to make data count: Improving the quality and coverage of our Economic Statistics”. My colleagues and I were pleased to see that you recommended that the statistical needs of the Commission should be a top priority.

We have already started discussions with the Scottish Government on our requirements, through their Scottish Economic Statistics Consultation Group as well as other informal channels.

We also note the recommendation that as many bodies as possible voluntarily seek to comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, as the Commission has done. We recently published a comprehensive statement on our adherence to the Code.<sup>1</sup> We are happy to discuss with other bodies if they wish to learn more about our approach.

The Committee has recommended that the Scottish Government undertake a feasibility study on different ways of producing economic statistics, setting out the pros and cons of various models, including one example more akin to the Commission. My colleagues and I are happy to support this work if that would be helpful, for example, providing information about costs, opportunities and challenges we faced in setting up the Commission.

Finally, we note the requirement on us to set out our statistical needs annually. We propose to do this formally as part of our annual report in September each year. In addition we will engage on an ongoing basis with the Scottish Government, HMRC, ONS, Revenue Scotland and others to ensure our needs are considered as part of user consultation and business planning activity.

I have copied this letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, the Scottish Government’s DG Scottish Exchequer, Chief Statistician and Chief Economist.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Rice".

Dame Susan Rice DBE

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<sup>1</sup> Scottish Fiscal Commission (2018) Compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics ([link](#))