



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
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CONVENER**

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Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Scrutiny of the 2019-20 Draft Budget

I am writing to invite you to give oral evidence to the Equalities and Human Rights Committee (EHRiC) on the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2019-20. We wish to take evidence from you at our meeting on the morning of **Thursday 20 December 2018**, following the publication of the Scottish Government's Draft Budget earlier in December.

New scrutiny procedures and pre-budget report

Since our establishment in 2016, we have sought to focus our budget scrutiny on the use of Scottish public funding to deliver equalities, and the role of the Scottish Government's Equality Budget Statement. The aim of this process has been to consider how the Scottish Government's budget can deliver equality outcomes for Scotland and identify the elements required to move forward with this task. We have also sought to promote the development of an equality-centred budget scrutiny across all Scottish Parliament committees.

The Committee supports the development of human rights-based budgeting in the Scottish budget system to ensure that Scotland is meeting its international and national human rights obligations. Along with this is the need to ensure that the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government become guarantors of human rights. This need has recently been reflected by the inclusion of a Human Rights Outcome in the Scottish Government's refreshed National Performance Framework (NPF) published this year.

As you know, this is the first budget cycle following the changes introduced to the budget scrutiny process in the wake of the recommendations of the Budget Process Review Group (BPRG) and the guidance to Committee's on the scrutiny of the budget¹. That guidance stated that through pre-budget evidence gathering and reports, parliamentary committees should seek to:

“set out their views on the delivery and funding of existing policy priorities, any proposed changes and how these should be funded. This should include [...] findings on the impact of spending on outcomes and the implications of these findings for future spending plans, including any suggested changes to policy priorities or allocation of resources.”

We recognise the size and scope of the task presented in looking to develop an equality and human rights-centred budget process presents, both for the Scottish Government and for the Scottish Parliament. The cross-cutting policy nature of equalities and human rights, and the need to develop the necessary data sets to allow proper policy-centred budget development to take place in this way, may seem a daunting task.

Nevertheless, there is a pressing need to ensure that all public-sector spending in Scotland works to deliver equalities and human rights. To that end, we identified eight key elements to progress this work in our 2018-19 report on the draft budget². They are:

- Progress on developing equality and human rights budgeting;
- Improving equalities data;
- Mainstreaming of equalities in the budget;
- Role of the Equality Budget Advisory Group;
- The National Performance Framework and Outcomes;
- Public authority implementation of national equality priorities;
- Linking budget scrutiny to the Public-Sector Equality Duty;
- Resources and analysis.

The Government responded to this report in January of this year³. As such, we expect that progress on many of the issues we highlighted will not have been advanced greatly since January. However, **we would welcome an update from you on 20 December on the Government's response to these issues in our 2018-19 budget report.**

Pre-budget issues

Following our report last year, we wrote to all 32 Scottish local authorities seeking information from them on the inclusion of equalities and human rights in the formulation of their budgets, and the delivery of their spending. To date, 31 local authorities have responded to our request for information⁴.

¹ Budget guidance to committees:

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Finance/General%20Documents/Budget_guidance_final.pdf

² EHRiC 7th Report 2017 (Session 5): Looking ahead to the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2018/19 Making the Most of equalities and human rights levers

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Equal_Opps/Reports/EHRiCS052017R7Rev.pdf

³ Scottish Government response to EHRiC 7th Report 2017:

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Equal_Opps/Inquiries/Scottish_Government_Response_to_EHRiC_2018-19_Budget_Report_20180125_Revised.pdf

⁴ Submissions from local authorities:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/106064.aspx>

As part of our pre-budget scrutiny we took oral evidence from representatives of local authorities on 4 October 2018. We also took evidence from the Chair of the Equality Budget Advisory Group, the Scottish Human Rights Commission and the Equality and Human Rights Commission on 25 October 2018. As a result, we have outlined four key areas we wish to address with you on 20 December. These are set out in the annex to this letter.

Inquiry on Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament

You will also be aware that we have been engaged in a major inquiry examining the role of the Scottish Parliament as a human rights guarantor. This follows on from the report of the Commission on Parliamentary Reform⁵ established by the Presiding Officer's in 2017.

I am pleased to say we plan to publish our report on this inquiry by early December. Therefore, our findings and recommendations will be available for the meeting of 20 December, and we look forward to being able to discuss these with you. I will ensure that a copy of our report is provided to you.

I can confirm that we plan to write to the conveners of all subject committees in the Scottish Parliament, on the issue of developing a human-rights based approach to budget scrutiny as part of the new budget scrutiny process.

Cabinet responsibility

Finally, following the recent Scottish Government reshuffle, I note that the Directorate for Local Government and Communities, which you head, has policy responsibility for equality and human rights policy.⁶ However, I also note that the Directorate for Social Security⁷, headed by Cabinet Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville and appears to have responsibilities in key policy areas under the Minister for Older People and Equalities⁸, Christina McKelvie MSP.

It would be most helpful if you could clarify to the Committee who has overall policy lead within the Scottish Cabinet for equalities and human rights.

If you have any further questions please contact the Clerk to the Committee at equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot or ring 0131 348 5223.

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Maguire MSP

Convener

Equalities and Human Rights Committee

⁵ Report of the Commission on Parliamentary Reform: <http://wayback.archive-it.org/10682/20170914105824/https://test123582.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/commissiononparliamentaryreformreport-june20171.pdf>

⁶ Remit of the Directorate for Local Government and Communities: <https://www.gov.scot/about/how-government-is-run/directorates/local-government-and-communities/>

⁷ Remit of the Directorate for Social Security: <https://www.gov.scot/about/how-government-is-run/directorates/social-security-directorate/>

⁸ Remit of the Minister for Older People and Equalities: <https://www.gov.scot/about/who-runs-government/cabinet-and-ministers/minister-older-people-equalities/>

CC: Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work
Minister for Older People and Equality
Chair, Equality Budgetary Advisory Group (EBAG)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Equalities and Human Rights Committee (EHRC), took pre-budget oral evidence as part of its approach to scrutiny of the Scottish Government's 2019-20 Draft Budget.
2. This is in line with the Guidance to Subject Committees on Budget Scrutiny⁹ issued by the Finance and Constitution Committee in April 2018. This followed on from the change to the budget scrutiny process in the wake of the recommendations from the Budget Process Review Group (BPRG).
3. On 4 October 2018, we took oral evidence from local authority witnesses: Councillor Jennifer Layden, City Convenor for Equalities and Human Rights, and Louise MacKenzie, Group Manager for Strategic Policy and Planning, Glasgow City Council; Rosemary Mackinnon, Principal Policy Officer for Equality, Highland Council; Audrey Cameron, Development Officer for Equalities, and Liz Fergus, Youthwork Manager, North Lanarkshire Council.
4. On 25 October 2018, we took oral evidence from: Dr Alison Hosie, Research Officer, Scottish Human Rights Commission; Dr Angela O'Hagan, Chair of the Scottish Government's Equality and Budget Advisory Group, and Chris Oswald, Head of Policy, Equality and Human Rights Commission.
5. As a result of this evidence, we have identified four key areas we wish to raise with you in advance of the publication of the Scottish Government's 2019/20 Draft Budget. These are set out below as A to D.

KEY ISSUES

A: Parliamentary scrutiny and budget processes

6. The 2019-20 Draft Budget is the first full year budget cycle under the new budget scrutiny process introduced by the recommendations of the BPRG. As such, various key elements of the new approach to the Draft Budget have yet to come into full effect. The BPRG recognised this in their final report when they stated that "it is unrealistic to expect all our recommendations will be implemented immediately. We expect these will be phased in and that the budget process will continue to evolve throughout the current parliamentary session."¹⁰
7. One such element is the recommendation that additional equality budgetary information be published in advance of the parliamentary summer recess each year. In its final report, the BPRG stated that it considered-

"...there would be benefit in publishing additional equalities information prior to the summer recess to allow this information to provide meaningful input into, or to influence, budgetary decisions."¹¹

⁹ Budget guidance to committees:

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Finance/General%20Documents/Budget_guidance_final.pdf

¹⁰ BPRG Report, Par 1: http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Finance/Reports/BPRG_-_Final_Report_30.06.17.pdf

¹¹ BPRG Report, Par 145: http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Finance/Reports/BPRG_-_Final_Report_30.06.17.pdf

8. We consider that the publication of additional equality information prior to the summer recess would be key element allowing parliamentary committees to undertake pre-budget scrutiny in advance of the publication of the annual draft budget proposals each December.

9. In its response to our 2018-19 Draft Budget report, the Scottish Government pointed to the complexity of developing certain types of equality budget data, (such as distributional analysis). However, the response referred to the intention of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance to implement all of the BPRG's recommendations "as quickly as possible", as well as acknowledging that the Scottish Government has "more to do in our approach to equality proofing the budget".¹² **We invite the Cabinet Secretary to update us on 20 December on any work being undertaken in terms of developing such equalities data and whether the Government intends to publish additional equalities data in advance of the 2019 summer recess?**

10. We recognise the challenges facing all parliamentary committees in terms of incorporating equalities and human rights scrutiny as part of the new budget scrutiny system. However, we believe the development of such scrutiny systems will help to promote a change in mindset across Government in terms of the formulation of policy, as opposed to the current reactive responses to committee scrutiny of policy and legislation.

11. One such reactive example is our recent Stage 1 scrutiny of the Financial Memorandum which accompanies the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill. During our Stage 1 scrutiny of the Bill, we identified a concern around the Financial Memorandum in relation to the lack of availability of advocacy support for children and young people, who become engaged in the police powers provided for in the Bill. The Bill intends to provide a new advocacy system for children. However, the evidence received led us to believe that the financial provisions in the Bill may be insufficient to deliver the service envisaged by the Bill.¹³

12. Looking at this issue from the point of view of equalities and human rights budgeting, this concern is an example of where a proactive budget scrutiny system could identify such issues, in policy terms.

13. The Scottish Government carried out an Equality Impact Assessment as part of the formulation of the Bill. Nevertheless, this did not, in our view, properly identify a potential equality concern. An equalities budgeting approach to the formulating of policy and funding for advocacy services in the criminal justice system, may have included a recognition that 'age' is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. This could, in turn, have identified the need to ensure equality between the provision of advocacy services for adults, and that for children and young people.

14. **We will write to the Convener's Group, and to the Justice Committee, highlighting this issue as an example of where equalities and human rights-based parliamentary scrutiny of policy could yield benefits.**

¹² Scottish Government response to EHRiC 7th Report 2018, Page 9:

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Equal_Opps/Inquiries/Scottish_Government_Response_to_EHRiC_2018-19_Budget_Report_20180125_Revised.pdf

¹³ EHRiC 5th Report 2018 (Session 5), Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill Stage 1 Report (SP Paper 411), Paras 244 - 246: <https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/Committees/Report/EHRiC/2018/11/7/Age-of-Criminal-Responsibility--Scotland--Bill-Stage-1-Report#Part-4---Police-Powers>

15. During our evidence session with Dr O'Hagan, we considered the recent correspondence from EBAG to all subject committees reminding them of the BPRG recommendation on the need to ensure committees recognise the importance of scrutinising equalities outcomes as part of the year-round budget process.¹⁴

16. **In order to help develop an equality-centred model of budget scrutiny across all committees, we proposed the Convener of the EHRC write jointly with the Chair of EBAG to all committees, requesting they each undertake an oral evidence session with relevant members of EBAG on the issue of equalities outcomes, and how they could relate to their own scrutiny of Scottish Government policies and budget proposals.** Such sessions could take place over the coming year, subject to committee workloads, and act to bridge any potential knowledge gaps between the approach to scrutiny arising from the pre-BPRG system, and the new budget scrutiny system.

B: Equalities data and the National Performance Framework (NPF)

17. A recurring theme to emerge from our evidence taking this year was the lack of equality data sets available in terms of developing equality budgeting.

18. Chris Oswald from the Equality and Human Rights Commission spoke of the work the Commission has undertaken with the Scottish Government on the provision of indicators in terms of city deals in Scotland. He stated this work has assisted in closing gaps by including data on disability and ethnicity.¹⁵

19. Chris Oswald also cited the results from the most recent *Is Britain Fairer*¹⁶ and *Is Scotland Fairer*¹⁷ reports which showed that, for example, members of the Bangladeshi community are £4,400 worse off¹⁸ per year, across Britain. This is as a result of tax and spend decisions over the past eight years, though they fair slightly better off in Scotland¹⁹.

20. Commenting on the lack of sufficient equality data available, and the challenges posed by the decision of the UK Government to reduce the amount of administrative data it collects, Chris Oswald said-

“Regrettably [...] the census remains the gold standard of equalities data, which means that, every 10 years, we wait to see what has been turned up. We would like far greater use to be made of administrative data. Rather than a contraction of data collection, we would like it to expand into areas where it is justified. At times, there is a disinclination to gather data. The situation in Scotland, in particular, is unhelpful, because the ethnicity categories are collapsed into five, when the data is gathered across 14 categories. That means that it is not possible to discern the distinctions between the outcomes for Pakistani,

¹⁴ EHRC Official Report, 25 October 2018, Cols 5-6:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11735&mode=pdf>

¹⁵ EHRC Official Report, 25 October 2018, Col 19:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11735&mode=pdf>

¹⁶ EHRC *Is Britain Fairer? 2018*: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/britain-fairer-2018>

¹⁷ EHRC *Is Scotland Fairer? 2018*: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/scotland-fairer-2018>

¹⁸ EHRC Official Report, 25 October 2018 Col 20:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11735&mode=pdf>

¹⁹ EHRC Official Report, 25 October 2018 Col 5:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11735&mode=pdf>

Bangladeshi or Indian people, which are quite stark if we are looking for nuanced policy”²⁰

21. He also pointed to the need to develop more geographically localised equalities data, as opposed to developing policy on the basis of Scotland-wide data, which runs the risk of replicating “a greater Glasgow issue” in other parts of the country.

22. Similarly, Dr Alison Hosie of the Scottish Human Rights Commission spoke of the problem of carrying out analysis from a rights perspective based on the currently available data. She cited the problem for budget scrutiny based on trying to “follow the money through the budget because the levels that have been produced within Scottish data sets do not make it easy”.²¹ Dr Hosie outlined work the SHRC has carried out to try to examine the rights to health, housing, food and social security as part of a project undertaken by the Commission. Trying to look at key aspects of those rights was “extremely difficult” owing to the lack of “financial information in the budget that related to those particular spends”. Referring to a possible remedy to this issue, Dr Hosie stated-

“A better connection with the NPF and the budget will help in areas in which there are directions of policy. If we go back to the work of the Christie commission, preventative spend is a big focus in health and other areas, but there is no budget line for preventative spend. It is very difficult to have to delve into many different budget lines to find out which bits of expenditure have been spent on that issue. When we have a lot of information, it is top level—it is on a national scale. Sometimes, there is no information even on a regional scale. That makes it very difficult to look at anything beyond top-level allocations in budget areas.”

23. We recognise the challenges facing the Scottish Government around the gaps in equality data sets and the difficulties of producing sufficiently robust data to allow equality-based budget analysis to be conducted. However, the development of data sets and indicators is a key aspect of connecting the formulation of budget policy across the Scottish Government to the delivery of equality outcomes. **We invite the Cabinet Secretary to update us on 20 December on what work the Scottish Government is undertaking to help develop data sets and indicators?**

C: Human Rights budgeting

24. While the objective of embedding equalities in the budget process is still very much a work in progress, the debate on this is well developed. Since devolution in 1999, there has been an ongoing debate about how public spending in Scotland has supported a fairer and more equal society.

25. There is now a growing recognition of a need to take a human rights-based approach to both the development of policy, and the budgetary decisions which underpin them at both a national and local level.

26. , We sought to get a sense of what progress, if any, was taking place in terms of shaping policy and budgetary decisions on a human rights basis.

27. During our evidence taking with local authorities, we asked witnesses about the impact the new National Outcome on Human Rights was having on their approach to

²⁰ EHRC Official Report, 25 October 2018, Col 18:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11735&mode=pdf>

²¹ EHRC Official Report, 25 October 2018, Col 19:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11735&mode=pdf>

shaping their budget processes. Councillor Jennifer Layden, City Convenor for Equalities and Human Rights at Glasgow City Council told us that this was an issue the Council was beginning to look at. She told us-

“We in Glasgow are starting to look at that, and officers have met Scottish Government colleagues to discuss how we can fit that into our budget process and our equality impact assessment training.”²²

28. Rosemary Mackinnon of Highland Council admitted that the Council “have a way to go to incorporate human rights issues fully” into their decision-making process. However, she told us that a human rights-based focus “is certainly getting stronger in children’s services, as children’s rights are regularly considered” by Highland Council.

29. Audrey Cameron, Development Officer for Equalities at North Lanarkshire Council pointed to the human rights-based approach which underpins the philosophy behind participatory budgeting in the Council, by allowing “communities determining for themselves how they want their money to be spent.”²³ North Lanarkshire Council is also integrating human rights into their equality impact assessment process.

30. We asked witnesses from EBAG and the SHRC about their interactions with Scottish Government officials on the development of human rights-based budgeting, and how seriously Scottish Government Directorates are taking the incorporation of human rights within their budgeting processes.

31. Dr Alison Hosie of the Scottish Human Rights Commission responded by saying that Scottish Government Directorates “do not do human rights budgeting yet” and that the SHRC is in the very early staged of discussion with Government officials about an understand as to what human rights budgeting is. Dr Hosie spoke of the need to ensure budget allocations are based on meeting Scotland’s international human rights obligations. Describing human rights budgeting as “transformational”, she said-

“It is quite a change. It is not that difficult to do, although it can be made to sound complicated. Actually, it is about looking at what income is generated, how it is allocated and whether it is spent on what it has been allocated to.”²⁴

32. Dr Angela O’Hagan, Chair of EBAG, also highlighted the importance of the development of human rights-based budgeting. She told us of the workplan EBAG is seeking to progress on developing human rights-based budgeting. This includes engaging with Scottish Government officials on their understanding of human rights-based budgeting and working with them to build the analytical competence required to develop such a system. Dr O’Hagan told us that EBAG is looking to schedule a meeting with ministers to discuss this plan further.²⁵

33. Dr Hosie welcomed the inclusion of a Human Rights Outcome in the NPF as a way to progress the development of human rights budgeting in Scotland, but pointed to

²² EHRiC Official Report, 4 October 2018, Col 44:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11712&mode=pdf>

²³ EHRiC Official Report, 4 October 2018, Col 44:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11712&mode=pdf>

²⁴ EHRiC Official Report, 25 October 2018, Col 13:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11735&mode=pdf>

²⁵ EHRiC Official Report, 25 October 2018, Cols 14-15:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11735&mode=pdf>

the need to develop human rights-based budgeting indicators to underpin the process. She said-

“At the moment, the NPF produces result outcome indicators. Human rights indicators could support the process by looking at the structures and the processes on the way to those outcomes—what commitments the Government has made, what policies and laws it is putting in place and whether they are the right ones—and by bringing in that programme action, what actually happens and the budget. That layer of information is potentially missing, and those indicators could tell a better story about where we are on the journey of achieving outcomes, about where money is not being put in the right place and where that needs to change, and about different programmes that need to be activated. At the moment, there is a big gap between the aspirations that we want to achieve and what we have on the ground, and the budget is not being directed at what we want to achieve.”²⁶

34. Dr Hosie went on to highlight the work of the Danish Institute for Human Rights in linking budgeting frameworks to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as an example of good practice in developing human rights-based budgeting.

35. We would welcome information from the Cabinet Secretary on 20 December on the work the Scottish Government is undertaking to help develop human rights-based budgeting and the development of Human Rights Indicators under the NPF. We would also welcome an update on the work the Government is undertaking with EBAG, and local authorities on developing the processes necessary to deliver the Human Rights Outcome set out in the NPF.

D: Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs)

36. During our evidence gathering another recurring theme to emerge was the use of Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs) in the budget process.

37. Local authority witnesses referred to the use of EqIAs as part of their budget formulation process. All the local authority witnesses we heard from pointed to policy or budgetary decisions at council level where the final decision had been shaped in response to an EqIA.

38. Furthermore, both the written and oral evidence we received from various local authorities referred to equalities training programmes that operate for elected members and staff. We noted with interest the evidence of Audrey Cameron from North Lanarkshire Council when she told us that the Council has recently passed a motion requiring all their elected members to undertake mandatory equality and diversity training. This approach supports the North Lanarkshire Councils’ use of EqIAs in their policy and budget formulation.²⁷

39. We also sought information from local authority witnesses on whether they undertake cumulative impact assessments on their policy and budgetary decisions.

40. Witnesses recognised the need to move to a model of cumulative impact assessments, but highlighted the practical difficulties they had encountered. Audrey Cameron told us that North Lanarkshire Council undertook cumulative impact

²⁶ EHRC Official Report, 25 October 2018, Col 9:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11735&mode=pdf>

²⁷ EHRC Official Report, 4 October 2018, Col 33:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11712&mode=pdf>

assessments as part of this 2017-18 budget process. However, this proved to be a difficult task, partly as a result of assumptions based on spending decisions in the Scottish Government's draft budget proposals, which changed by the time the budget was enacted.^{28 29} In terms of the challenges posed in undertaking culminative impact assessments on services delivered by local authorities, Audrey Cameron said-

“...we try as best as we can to take a cumulative look at those matters. It is easier to do that for a budget, because so many equality impact assessments are being done at one time, but when you have an individual service doing an impact assessment on only two areas a year, it is difficult to get that focus.”³⁰

41. Witnesses from both Glasgow City Council and Highland Council acknowledged the challenges of developing cumulative impact assessments across council spending, with Councillor Layden from Glasgow City Council stating that more evidence and data was needed to support the development of cumulative impacts assessments.

42. Her colleague, Louise MacKenzie, added that in recent years Glasgow City Council has attempted to undertake a cumulative impact assessment “in a very high-level way to flag up to elected members the broad cumulative impacts prior to decision making.” Like other local government witnesses, Glasgow City Council would “be interested in getting more advice and support” on how they practically implement cumulative impact assessment.³¹

43. The use of cumulative impact assessments at national level was also considered. Chris Oswald of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission said the Commission had worked with Landman Economics to develop better scrutiny of budgetary decisions that were taken by the UK Government between 2010 and 2015. A report from this work is to be published shortly and will assess the potential impacts on different groups of changes to taxation, social security and public services, up to 2022.

44. Chris Oswald told us that this work has allowed the EHRC-

“to identify that, going forward, the largest losses will be for those in income decile 2, for any family with more than three children and lone parents—those three groups will have the most significant losses. Black and Caribbean communities are the next most affected, and then it is people with severe disabilities. In terms of age, the most significant losses are among the 18 to 24-year-old age group.”³²

45. He went on to tell us that in some instances, vulnerable groups in society were seeing major impacts. For example, the work estimates that families with one disabled adult have lost £6,500. The figures for Scotland show it has been performing better than

²⁸ EHRC Official Report, 4 October 2018, Col 41:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11712&mode=pdf>

²⁹ EHRC Official Report, 4 October 2018, Col 41:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11712&mode=pdf>

³⁰ EHRC, Official Report, 4 October 2018, Col 41:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11712&mode=pdf>

³¹ EHRC Official Report, 4 October 2018, Col 42:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11712&mode=pdf>

³² EHRC Official Report, 4 October 2018, Cols 19-20:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11712&mode=pdf>

other parts of Britain in this regard, “but it is still not a good picture, given the rising inflation and contracting household income.”³³

46. The evidence we have received indicated that there is a pressing need to improve and expand the use of EqlAs to ensure the public spending decisions across Scotland work to deliver equalities and human rights outcomes, and not inadvertently undermine them. Budgetary decisions at both a Scottish Government and local government level have a vital role to play in this objective.

47. We invite the Cabinet Secretary to update us on 20 December on the work the Scottish Government is undertaking to improve and develop the system of EqlAs. We also wish to find out of the Scottish Government plans to develop a cumulative impact assessment model for the Budget.

48. Furthermore, in light of the evidence from local authorities, we would ask the Cabinet Secretary to set out the ways in which the Scottish Government intends to work with local government to assist in developing a model to build on the desire to undertake cumulative impact assessments of local authority spending.

CONCLUSION

49. We look forward to discussing the issues we have raised with the Scottish Government following the publication of the Draft Budget 2019-20 proposals in early December 2018. We ask the Cabinet Secretary to address the questions we have raised as part of our oral evidence taking session on 20 December.

³³ EHRiC Official Report, 25 October 2018, Cols 19-20:
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11735&mode=pdf>