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Criminal Justice Committee

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Dear Convenor,

### **Pre-Budget Scrutiny Evidence Session**

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence to the Criminal Justice Committee on 12 November.

I have read the Committee's helpful transcript of the pre-budget scrutiny session which sets out a summary of the evidence provided. I am writing as a follow up to the following two questions.

Mr Hepburn MSP asked about the impact of the increase to employer national insurance contributions. I can confirm that COPFS additional cost from increased employer national insurance contributions is £2.8m, of which Scottish Government funded 60% (£1.7m). Unfunded element is £1.1m which is a pressure we have had to absorb.

You asked for some detail on what COPFS are progressing to reduce carbon footprint and emissions. I can confirm that COPFS continues to exceed its target to reduce CO2e emissions from the use of gas and electricity in its buildings by over 2.5% per year from the baseline year of 2022-23 with emissions reduced by 13% overall by the end of March 2025. A large part of the overall reduction is due to an increase in national renewable energy generation. An overall reduction in electricity consumption can be partly attributed to the effective installation of PV arrays in some offices.

COPFS successfully applied for grant funding from the Scottish Government Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme for two projects, Elgin and Crown Office. The first project being a complete low carbon retrofit of the Elgin COPFS office was completed in July 2024. This retrofit included full insulation of walls and roof, new high-performance triple glazed windows, and replacement of the gas-based heating system with an electrically powered system. The completed building achieved an EPC score of 6 and an A+ rating, which is a significant improvement on the previous D rating. This building will therefore be Zero Carbon Ready for when the grid electricity is generated from 100% renewable sources.

The second project is a similar low carbon retrofit of Edinburgh Crown Office. The first phase of the project concluded in May 2025 with the second phase in November 2025 and includes full insulation of the walls and roof and secondary glazing, and a



low carbon heating system. The estimated savings from the low carbon retro fit is expected to be approximately 467,472 kWh of electricity and tCO2e: 85 tonnes. The completed building achieved an EPC score of 7 and an A+ rating, which is a significant improvement on the previous D rating.

I hope this information is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

*Yvette Greener*

Yvette Greener  
Chief Operating Officer  
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

