

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Correspondence from the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Scottish Government, to the Convener of 7 March 2022

Dear Convener

Thank you for the invitation for Leslie Evans to attend your committee, and apologies for not responding before now. As you will be aware, Ms Evans left the role of Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government on 31 December 2021 and is now on a period of leave until she retires from the UK Civil Service on 31 March 2022. On that basis, Ms Evans is effectively no longer a post-holder within the Scottish Government and is not able to speak on behalf of or represent the views of Scottish Ministers.

However, serving officials and Ministers stand ready to provide evidence to your Committee as you see fit. In particular, John-Paul Marks is now in post as Permanent Secretary and is leading the organisation in addressing the challenges and delivering on the opportunities in line with Ministers' priorities. Mr Marks would be delighted to attend your Committee if you would find that helpful.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if it would be useful to discuss further or if you have alternative invitations or requests for information that we can support your Committee with.

Once again, please accept my apologies for the delay in providing clarity on this issue.

Office of the Permanent Secretary
Scottish Government