

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance
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airson Ionmhas
Shona Robison MSP
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Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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18 May 2023

Dear Kenneth,

Thank you for your letter of 20 April 2023 seeking clarification on the Scottish Government's response to the Committee's Report on the National Performance Framework – Ambitions into Action.

The Scottish Government is currently conducting a review of the National Outcomes in line with its obligations under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The public engagement phase of the review was launched in March and includes a written consultation, which is open to the public, and a call for evidence. In addition to this, officials are meeting with stakeholder groups to discuss their views on the National Outcomes and gather feedback on what matters most to communities in Scotland.

It is still my intention that, when the reviewed National Outcomes are published, the Scottish Government will publish resources to support the further use of the National Performance Framework, including how it can be used to develop and deliver policies that improve people's wellbeing. Delivering the National Outcomes is something we will only achieve if we work together across sectors. My Officials will therefore work with a wide range of stakeholders throughout the development of an implementation plan to ensure we can collectively achieve results that enable the NPF to play a central role in strategic decision-making.

We will also fulfil our duty set out in the Community Empowerment Act by submitting our report to Parliament detailing proposed changes to outcomes. This report will include findings from our desk-based research, online consultation, call for evidence and stakeholder meetings. The contribution of this learning to the National Outcomes review will be outlined in our report.

The National Indicators are being reviewed alongside the National Outcomes to ensure they continue to provide an accurate measure of Scotland's national wellbeing. Lessons learnt on what makes a technically sound indicator will feed into this review alongside other factors, such as changes to methodology, data sources and longevity.

Officials are also considering how best to raise awareness of the revised National Outcomes. Presenting them in an accessible manner will be essential to ensuring successful uptake by as many people as possible, so that they can then use the National Outcomes to deliver changes that improve the wellbeing of communities across Scotland. Feedback on the presentation of the National

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Outcomes, including the terminology and structure of the NPF, will be considered during the course of the review.

I share my predecessor's desire to ensure Parliament is given ample time to scrutinise the outcome of the review. My officials will continue to liaise with clerks to determine how much additional time may be required, ensuring this fits with the timeline for the review.

The National Outcomes review is an opportunity for communities across our country to contribute to a shared vision for national wellbeing. I look forward to hearing proposals that the Scottish Government will take forward with our partners to improve the lives of the people of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

SHONA ROBISON

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