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Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email to: fpa.committee@parliament.scot

28 May 2024

Dear Kenny

I wrote to you on 21 May to confirm my intention to publish the seventh Medium-Term Financial Strategy on 20 June, following postponement from 30 May.

Since then, the UK Government has called a General Election for 4 July. The Committee will have now received a letter from the Permanent Secretary to communicate that the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, draft Tax Strategy, and Infrastructure Investment Pipeline annual report and pipeline review will need to be delayed in line with the pre-election guidance.

Scottish Ministers will now consider a revised publication date, and we will consult with the Committee and Scottish Fiscal Commission on this in due course. I understand the importance of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to inform pre-budget scrutiny and will work with the Committee to discuss how a revised publication date can continue to fulfil this role whilst allowing the Scottish Government to respond to new fiscal positions from an incoming UK Government, given that these will affect the medium-term outlook. In doing so I am keen to fully support the Committee in its scrutiny role and will uphold my offer of private sessions with officials as appropriate in the context of a revised publication.

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I appreciate the Committee will be disappointed in this outcome. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their continued support and engagement during this period, and I look forward to building on our constructive and positive relationship as we move forward.

Yours Sincerely,

SHONA ROBISON

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