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The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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By email: [FPA.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:FPA.committee@parliament.scot)  
03 September 2025

Dear Kenneth,

The Committee will be aware that the UK Government announced today, 3 September 2025, that the Autumn Statement will take place on 26 November 2025.

I was disappointed by this announcement, first because the Scottish Government received no prior notice and second because the UK Budget will come so late in the calendar year.

Given the impact of this decision for Scotland, it is deeply disappointing that the Treasury failed to make the Scottish Government aware in advance. This is not the positive working relationship we were promised by the Prime Minister and Chancellor.

I am currently considering the options available to us in light of this development. With a UK Budget so late in the calendar year, there is now no ideal timeframe for either Government or Parliament. This year is particularly challenging, as we are not only preparing the Scottish Budget but also the Scottish Spending Review, the Infrastructure Delivery Pipeline, and the Infrastructure Investment Plan. As a Government, we will need to allow sufficient time to digest the outcomes of the Autumn Statement, including its tax decisions, and to properly consider appropriate policy responses. At the same time, we fully recognise the time that Parliament requires for vital scrutiny and engagement.

This delay by the UK Government does make it very challenging for the Scottish Government to undertake the detailed financial planning needed to bring forward our fiscal publications before Christmas. However, I am also aware that deferring the Scottish Budget until January will reduce the time available for scrutiny and the Bill timetable. I am considering the options and would invite you to share your views.

I will return to you with a more detailed position as soon as possible.

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My officials are also liaising closely with the Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) to ensure that budget timings enable the SFC to fulfil its role. I am copying this letter to Professor Graeme Roy, Chair of the SFC.

Kind regards

**SHONA ROBISON**

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