



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Public Administration Committee

James Murray MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
UK Government

12 December 2025

Dear James

Thank you for your recent response to the Finance and Public Administration Committee's letter of 16 September 2025, inviting you to give evidence at a future Committee meeting.

As stated in our previous letter, we are eager to engage with HM Treasury and facilitate the open exchange of information to the benefit of devolution and better scrutiny.

In advance of the Scottish Budget 2026-27, to be published on 13 January 2026, the Committee is considering the economic and fiscal environment in the UK and what this means for Scotland's finances. Within this context, the Committee would like to explore with you the fiscal challenges facing the UK economy and the impact of UK Government taxation and spending decisions on the Scottish Budget, as well as the operation of the fiscal framework more generally.

We welcome the recent agreement between the UK and the Scottish Governments regarding preliminary work on a review of the fiscal framework. The Committee was disappointed that the previous review in August 2023 was so narrowly focused, lacked transparency and provided no opportunity to feed in views, and we share the Scottish Government's position that the scope of the upcoming review "should be broader than the last".

In your letter, you state that you will consider invitations to the Committee once the UK Government's Autumn Budget has concluded. With the Autumn Budget having been delivered last month, we restate our invitation to you to give evidence to the Committee in January/February 2026. The Committee clerks are happy to liaise with your officials over a suitable date.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Scottish Parliament.

Contact: Finance and Public Administration Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.

Email FPA.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener