



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener – Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

3 October 2025

Dear Kenneth,

1. Thank you for your letter of 16th September regarding engagement with the Scottish Parliament's Finance and Public Administration Committee.
2. I look forward to working closely with the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Finance, and I recognise the importance of the devolved legislature Finance Committees in providing scrutiny to devolved government spending. I am keen to support your work, whilst also recognising the importance of Parliamentary accountabilities and that the UK Government is accountable to the UK Parliament for its tax and spending decisions.
3. UK Government (UKG) ministerial attendance at devolved legislature committees has historically been on a case-by-case basis where UKG Ministers could provide clarity on specific issues.
4. Bearing in mind the accountabilities of the UK and Scottish Governments, and that the UKG's Autumn Budget has yet to be delivered, I am unable to accept this invitation to give evidence to the committee. As with my predecessor, I will consider invitations on an individual basis and once the UKG's Autumn Budget has concluded.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON JAMES MURRAY MP
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY