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Professor Graeme Roy
Scottish Fiscal Commission
Governor's House, Regent Road
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6 May 2025

Dear Professor Roy,

I am writing to update you on the publication date of the 2025 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the accompanying Fiscal Sustainability Delivery Plan (FSDP) which I had confirmed to be published on 29 May 2025.

As I set out in my letter to the Finance and Public Administration Committee last August, I had intended this year to both return to the usual schedule and to align with the terms of the Written Agreement with Parliament, and publish after the conclusion of the UK Spending Review (UKSR) so that the information used to inform the strategy and related delivery plan would be robust. At the time, I recognised that the exact timing would be contingent upon the publication date of the UKSR.

The timing of the UKSR does not allow both these aims to be achieved. While the data and information required to deliver the key components of the Economic and Fiscal forecasts is available; in light of the significant impact the UKSR outcome will have on the Scottish Government's funding outlook, and the considerable uncertainty over the decisions the UK Government will announce on 11th June, I have been reflecting on the timing of our fiscal publications. I am now proposing to defer publication of the MTFS and FSDP to the week commencing 23 June 2025.

This revised timing would allow the MTFS to reflect the outcome of the UKSR, enabling the Government to publish a more robust central funding forecast as the basis for pre-Budget scrutiny.

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I appreciate all of the work that has already been progressed to deliver the first Economic and Fiscal Forecasts for 2025 and appreciate that this deferral will have implications for your own publications. I would be grateful for your view on your proposed approach to your own publications and I have asked my officials to engage with yours to agree any adjustments to the forecasting schedule, as necessary.

I have today written to the Finance and Public Administration Committee (FPAC) to notify them of the proposed change in publication date.

May I take this opportunity to thank you and your team for the professionalism and dedication you bring to delivering the economic and fiscal forecasts for Scotland.

I am copying this letter to Kenneth Gibson, chair of the Finance and Public Administration Committee.

Yours sincerely,

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