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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

6 May 2025

Dear Kenneth,

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, publishing 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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Engagement with FPAC

I appreciate the impact this change may have on the Committee's scrutiny timetable. To support the Committee's work, I would be happy to offer informal engagement over the Summer recess, should members find that helpful, ahead of formal scrutiny post-recess. I would also make myself available for a formal session at the earliest opportunity following Parliament's return in September.

I am also grateful for the Committee's invitation to attend the evidence session on 20 May as part of the Budget Process Inquiry, and I confirm that I will be pleased to attend.

Next Steps

I have today written to the Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) to notify them of this proposed change and invited their view on the implications for the timing of the Economic and Fiscal Forecast publications.

I am happy to discuss and I look forward to engaging with the Committee in the coming months.

I am copying this letter to the Public Audit Committee.

Yours sincerely,

SHONA ROBISON

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