

# Written agreement between the Finance and Public Administration Committee and the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body on the budget process in Session 6 of the Scottish Parliament

## Introduction

1. This document sets out an agreement between the Finance and Public Administration Committee and the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) on the budget process in Session 6 of the Scottish Parliament. It is based on the Session 5 agreement between both bodies as updated following the publication of the Budget Process Review Group's recommendations for a revised Budget Process<sup>1</sup> in 2017. It is not intended to create any legal rights or obligations on either the SPCB or on the Committee.

## The Parliament's Budget

2. The expenditure plans of any body which has a prior call on the Scottish Consolidated Fund will reduce the total amount available to the Scottish Ministers for inclusion in their plans. The Parliament's own budget falls into that category. It is therefore important that, wherever possible, accurate information about the spending plans of the SPCB is made available to the Finance and Public Administration Committee and the Scottish Government at an early stage.
3. The SPCB has agreed that it will provide a budget to the Committee and to the Scottish Government, normally no later than the end of the first week in December.
4. The SPCB has also agreed to keep both the Committee and the Scottish Government informed of any substantive changes to the Scottish Parliament's budget in recognition of the fact that these would affect the Scottish Government's expenditure plans and the Parliament's consideration of them.
5. The SPCB also agrees that, in order to assist the Committee's understanding of the expenditure plans, Members of the SPCB, the Clerk and parliamentary staff will provide information and give evidence to the Committee when requested.
6. The Finance and Public Administration Committee will consider and report on the SPCB's budget as part of its wider budget scrutiny.
7. The SPCB's final expenditure proposals will appear in the annual Budget Bill which will be voted upon by the Parliament.

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<sup>1</sup> The Group reported in June 2017. [http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S5\\_Finance/Reports/BPRG\\_-\\_Final\\_Report\\_30.06.17.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S5_Finance/Reports/BPRG_-_Final_Report_30.06.17.pdf)