

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government regarding the Verity House Agreement and accountability and assurance arrangements, 24 March 2026

Dear Ariane

As you will be aware, Section C of the Verity House Agreement commits the Scottish Government and Local Government to agree a monitoring and accountability framework:

“Scottish Government and Local Government will jointly agree a monitoring and accountability framework, drawing on proportionate reporting and data collection, to provide evidence and visibility over progress towards agreed outcomes.

Audit Scotland and the Accounts Commission Scotland will be invited to support and provide independent evaluation of progress.

Existing strategic and service level plans and associated reporting will be streamlined and refined to be utilised within this assurance process without creating duplication, this will include but not be limited to Local Outcome Improvement Plans, Children’s Services Plans, Child Poverty Plans and Climate Change Plans.”

Over the course of the last 2 years Scottish Government policy and analytical teams and COSLA and have been working together to develop the VHA Accountability and Assurance Arrangements which have now been agreed by the First Minister and COSLA President.

We are today publishing the Accountability and Assurance Arrangements which will support the work on monitoring progress against the Verity House shared priorities in the next parliamentary term. The publication can be found here: [VHA Accountability and Assurance Arrangements](#)

Yours sincerely

Shona Robison
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government