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Shared Outcomes Framework

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 2022 regarding the Shared Outcomes Framework and your suggestion that an Executive Summary of that document would prove useful.

On the timing point, I am sorry if the provision of the Framework was felt to obstruct the quality of the session. That was not of course the intention and I understand that my officials had been in touch with your clerking team ahead of publication and had alerted them to the fact this work was underway. That said, I acknowledge that given the context of the Audit Scotland report, my officials should have been more explicit about the content of the Framework and should have directly engaged earlier in the process with your clerks for advice on the Committee's preferred timing for discussing the content.

I am very clear that the Scottish Government must ensure that both Audit Scotland and the Committee are able to remain up to date with progress on the projects included in the Shared Outcomes Framework as well as the work of the Shared Outcomes Assurance Group. The Committee has the absolute right to scrutinise this document and to hold the Government to account to ensure that sufficient progress is being made towards stated outcomes. To this end, and as Joe Griffin had committed during his evidence session, I can confirm that the agenda, minutes and papers for the Shared Outcomes Assurance Group meetings will now be published proactively on the Scottish Government's website. The first set of these papers are available [here](#). My officials and I remain very happy to speak to the Committee on this work at any point.

As is noted on the relevant pages of the website, the Shared Outcomes Framework was published as a working draft with refinements and improvements to be iterated. I am therefore grateful for your feedback on the Framework's accessibility and as such I have also asked my officials to produce an Executive Summary of the Framework as per your

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recommendation. In the interests of transparency and with respect to the Committee's right to scrutinise this work, I have asked my officials to develop this with SFC and SDS and in discussion with Audit Scotland to better understand in which way it is felt a more simplified summary can be provided. Ahead of publication my officials will share a draft version of this with your clerks as I am keen to hear from the Committee if it meets their requirements as an easier to read document.

Yours sincerely



Jamie Hepburn

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