



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Alison Cumming  
Director of Budget and Public Spending  
Scottish Government

**Public Audit Committee**  
Room T3.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
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By email only

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26 July 2023

Dear Alison,

### **Major Capital Projects**

Thank you for giving evidence to the Public Audit Committee on [29 June 2023](#) in relation to the Scottish Government's Major Capital Projects update – March 2023. Following the evidence session, the Committee agreed to write to you on a number of points.

On the prioritisation and assessment frameworks that the Scottish Government has in place in for its major capital projects and programmes, the Committee asks that you provide a response to the following questions.

- Please explain how the National Performance Framework informs decisions on infrastructure spending and how will it be used to inform the re-prioritisation that is planned.
- Please explain how the Scottish Government will seek to balance competing priorities e.g. how does it determine an appropriate level of spending on road projects which might conflict with net zero or environmental aims and objectives.
- Please provide an update on progress to improve the carbon assessment of infrastructure investment, as per the commitment in the 2021 Infrastructure

Investment Plan and the statutory requirements set out in the Climate Change Act of 2019.

- Please provide an update on the progress that has been made towards development of an overarching framework for assessment and prioritisation of infrastructure investment, as recommended by the Infrastructure Commission for Scotland in 2020.

During the meeting you also undertook to provide the following information—

- Column 23, information on help available for private citizens to reduce emissions from buildings.
- Column 27, reasons for the delay and increase in budget for the oncology enabling projects at the Edinburgh Cancer Centre.
- Column 29, additional information on the affordable housing supply programme.
- Columns 32/33, who will own the EV charging network in the future.

I would be grateful if you could provide a response to this letter by **24 August 2023**.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard Leonard MSP**  
**Convener**