The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Committee Conveners

By email

12 November 2026

Dear Conveners

Thank you for your committees' engagement in pre-budget scrutiny during the early months of this parliamentary session.

The Parliamentary Bureau is required to schedule time each year for committees to debate their pre-budget reports or letters. To date, this debate has been led by the Finance and Public Administration Committee and involved Conveners of committees that have carried out pre-budget scrutiny. The debate is normally held between the Scottish Budget being published and the Stage 1 debate on the Budget Bill, with the aim of allowing committees to discuss how their pre-budget reports have influenced the Scottish Budget.

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government recently wrote to the Finance and Public Administration Committee (FPA) asking for our "preferred timing for [this] debate, if the Committee wish for that to take place". To inform our response to the Cabinet Secretary, we seek Conveners' views on whether it would be useful to hold the debate again this year. If so, we would welcome any suggested changes that could strengthen the debate's impact and value to committees.

For your information, some small changes were piloted during the last debate in January 2026, including designating a theme for the debate, providing more time for interventions, and identifying and sharing common areas of interest across committee pre-budget scrutiny.

The FPA Committee seeks your responses by **12 noon on 27 November 2026.**

Yours sincerely

Clare Haughey MSP
Convener

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