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Clare Haughey MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee

By email only

15/09/2026

Dear Clare,

I am writing to provide an update on the reform of the National Performance Framework (NPF). I am also sending a copy of this letter to all committees given the wide-reaching nature of the National Outcomes and the positive involvement during the previous Parliamentary session.

As you will know, the Government's review of the National Outcomes and subsequent FPAC-led inquiry, were clear that while the National Outcomes remained an important vision for Scotland, we recognised that they could and should be updated and more clearly implemented.

Following a period of reform, including a productive period of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders earlier this year, we are now in the process of finalising the reformed National Performance Framework in line with international good practice such as the OECD Measurement of Wellbeing Framework and the recent UN Beyond GDP report I am writing to you today to inform you of the proposed National Outcomes which the First Minister, in the programme for government, is clear represent the kind of Scotland we want to build.

The National Outcomes, aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, provide a long-term, shared vision and direction for Scotland to improve the wellbeing of people living in Scotland now and in the future. The new outcomes and definitions are:

- **Connected** - we participate freely in the civic, cultural and social life of our communities and institutions.
- **Healthy** - we live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives.
- **Prosperous** - we have a successful economy which supports fair work and a good standard of living for all.
- **Secure** - we live safe lives, free from threat, violence and injustice.
- **Skilled** - we have the knowledge and skills we need throughout our lives to realise our full potential.
- **Sustainable** - we live in, and enjoy, a healthy environment and have protected and restored it for future generations.

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- **Fair** - we live in a fair and equitable national and global society, free from discrimination, and we respect, protect and fulfil our human rights.

Population-level, long-term outcomes should be simple and easy to understand while also capturing the broad range of things that affect people's lives. It is important that none of these outcomes should be viewed in isolation, nor are any of them the responsibility of any one organisation. This is a vision and a responsibility for all of Scotland and by having fewer national outcomes, we hope to foster greater collaboration and more effective systems thinking.

We are now finalising a set of streamlined national indicators which will measure progress towards the National Outcomes. As FPAC identified in session six, the connection between the outcomes, the priorities of government, and the things government is actually doing has not always been clear. We are developing an approach to address this gap and establish a more comprehensive framework, as signalled in the recently published Scottish Government's five-year change plan, and I will soon share further details with the committee on this reformed framework.

We intend to formally launch the reformed National Performance Framework soon, and I look forward to involving the Parliament and other partners and stakeholders in this. With a more robust framework in place, supporting our Public Service Reform ambition for a clear connection between outcomes, ways of working and accountability across Scotland, I will look forward to working with Parliament in using this important tool to debate and scrutinise our progress as a nation.

I also look forward to discussing the timing, scope and approach of the next statutory review with the committee in due course.

Yours sincerely,



IVAN MCKEE

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