

Collette Stevenson  
Convener  
Social Justice and Social Security Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Holyrood  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Via email address [SJSS.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:SJSS.committee@parliament.scot)

Date: Wednesday 13 August 2025  
Our reference: SHRC202543

Dear Convener,

## **Pre-Budget Scrutiny: Human Rights-Based Approaches and Invitation to Workshop**

As Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission, I am writing to offer support to all parliamentary committees in integrating human rights into this year's pre-budget scrutiny process.

As with last year, SHRC is taking a strategic approach to our engagement by providing all committees with access to our Pre-Budget Scrutiny Briefing, issued in August 2024. This briefing remains highly relevant for the 2025–26 budget cycle and sets out a rights-based framework to support scrutiny of transparency, participation, and accountability in budget decisions. It also includes suggested questions that may assist across all portfolio areas. You can access the briefing [here](#).

Over the course of this year, SHRC has continued to invest in this area by:

Updating our briefing series on human rights budgeting and budget scrutiny, to be published later in 2025.

Developing a practical toolkit to support those involved in public finance and scrutiny.

Convening a workshop to explore this toolkit and associated approaches in greater depth.

I would be pleased to invite Committee Members and clerks to attend this upcoming event:

### **Human Rights Budgeting Workshop**

**Date:** Wednesday 1 October 2025

**Time:** 10:00 – 16:15

**Venue:** Audit Scotland, Edinburgh (with thanks for their support in hosting)

The workshop brings together contributors from public finance institutions, scrutiny bodies, civil society, and international human rights organisations. It will explore how human rights budgeting can support more transparent, inclusive, and outcomes-focused public spending in Scotland.

The day is structured into a series of sessions. While attendance for the full day is welcome, we appreciate that may not be possible for all. Participation in individual sessions is also very welcome.

The **draft Agenda** is as follows:

10:00 – 10:30	Arrival, Registration and Coffee
10:30 – 10:45	Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:45 – 11:15	Why Human Rights Budgeting?
11:15 – 12:30	Toolkit Showcase and Practical Session – Led by Dr Aidan Flegg
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and Networking
13:30 – 14:50	Panel and Discussion: Human Rights and Public Finance Accountability

Chair: Prof Jo Ferrie, University of Glasgow

Contributors include:

- Auditor General for Scotland, Stephen Boyle
- Scottish Fiscal Commission, TBC
- Equality and Human Rights Budget Advisory Group, Interim Chair Emma Congreve

- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Human Rights Economist, Chafik Ben Rouin TBC
- Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission, Prof Angela O'Hagan

14:50 – 15:00 | Coffee / Comfort Break

15:00 – 16:00 | Roundtables: Making Human Right Budgeting Work in Practice

16:00 – 16:15 | Closing Reflections and Next Steps

I hope this event will be of interest to those involved in budget scrutiny, and that it will provide an opportunity to explore practical ways to strengthen alignment between Scotland's budget decisions and its human rights obligations.

If you or any members of the Committee would like to attend, please email [events@scottishhumanrights.com](mailto:events@scottishhumanrights.com) to book a place, notifying us of any access, communication or dietary requirements. You can also contact us that the same email address if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

**Professor Angela O'Hagan**  
**Chair**  
**Scottish Human Rights Commission**