



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee

Keith Brown
Cabinet Secretary for Economy,
Jobs and Fair Work

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Tel: (0131) 348 5947

RNID Typetalk 18001 0131 348 5947

economyjobsandfairwork@parliament.scot

Sent by email only

19 October 2017

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Draft budget scrutiny 2018-19: Gender Pay Gap and Women in Enterprise

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee has agreed to write to you as part of its scrutiny of the draft budget 2018/19. As you may be aware, the Committee intends to carry out pre-budget scrutiny before the publication of the draft budget in December. In particular the Committee seeks further information on spend allocated to the Women in Enterprise Framework and the gender pay gap.

In its report on the draft budget for 2017/18, the Committee stated:

Paragraph 95 – Women in Enterprise

We welcome the Cabinet Secretary's positive comments relating to women in enterprise. The Committee welcomes the stated increase in the budget for entrepreneurial activity among women whilst at the same time recognising the need for all enterprise agencies and other stakeholders to work together to ensure best practice is shared to increase innovation among the general population. The Committee will be undertaking work on this area in 2017 and asks for clarification around evidence from the Cabinet Secretary that the budget for entrepreneurial activity among women will be doubled.

In your response, you stated:

The Scottish Government will continue to support specific actions, co-developed with public, private & third sector partners through the 'Women In Enterprise Framework', to tackle the gender-gap in enterprise – this is complementary to the inclusive

support offered by the public enterprise network. In 2016-17 we committed £200,000 to project through the Framework and will in 2017-18 double this to £400,000.

The Committee has agreed to seek your views on funding made available for the Women in Enterprise Framework, previous spend, outcomes and plans for future spend in the forthcoming budget.

As part of its pre-budget scrutiny the Committee is also seeking further information regarding the gender pay gap.

In the Scottish Government's response to the Committee's Gender Pay Gap report, you highlighted a number of projects which make a positive impact on closing the gap in Scotland; including returners' programmes and the Digital World marketing campaign.

The Committee would welcome a written summary of spend on reducing the gender pay gap in 2017/18 and also requests information on the likely forthcoming spend on addressing the gap.

We would be grateful if this information could be forwarded to the Committee by **Friday 1 December**.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon Lindhurst". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Gordon Lindhurst MSP
Convener