



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Local Government and Communities
Committee**

By email only

T3.60

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131 348 6037

Calls via RNID Typetalk: 18001 0131 348 6037

Email:

localgovernmentandcommunities@parliament.scot

3 April 2018

Dear Convener,

Consultation of the Scottish Parliament on the Scottish Government's Revised National Outcomes

On 29 March 2018, the Scottish Government formally laid their updated National Outcomes as part of a broader look at the National Performance Framework (NPF); I have attached a copy of the proposed National Outcomes to the email that accompanies this letter. Under section 2 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Scottish Government is required to consult the Scottish Parliament on the proposed revisions to the Outcomes.

Due to the nature and scope of the National Outcomes and the NPF, the proposed changes fall within the remit of several committees. The Parliament has designated the Local Government and Communities Committee as lead committee. Given the timescales for taking evidence, our role will be to collate the views of other relevant committees, and publish these alongside the Local Government and Communities (LGC) Committee views.

I am therefore writing to you to seek the views of your committee on the proposed revisions to the National Outcomes that fall within your remit and on the consultation process undertaken on those outcomes.

Background

National Outcomes

The National Outcomes represent the Scottish Government's broad policy aims. They are part of the NPF which also articulates the Government's overarching single purpose. The current version includes a set of National Indicators as well. Under the Act, National Outcomes must be reviewed at least every five years. The current National Outcomes were set in 2007 and one further Outcome was added in 2011.

National Performance Framework

This is the Scottish Government's framework for public policy in Scotland. The NPF provides a way to hold the Scottish Government to account against its own stated aims, and to scrutinise whether the underlying policy and measures are joined up.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Scottish Government has committed to implementing the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ by incorporating them into the National Performance Framework, in time for the Parliamentary consultation. The consultation will therefore provide an opportunity for the Parliament to scrutinise and provide feedback to the Scottish Government on this new element of the NPF also.

Approach to scrutiny in the Parliament and timetable

As indicated, my own Committee will co-ordinate the scrutiny of the National Outcomes and look also at those Outcomes which touch upon our remit. We will produce a report containing our own views and the views of any other committee and present this to Parliament for a debate in the coming months.

You are invited to review the National Outcomes relevant to your remit. To assist you in deciding which Outcomes you may wish to consider, I have attached a list of Cabinet Secretaries who lead on the various Outcomes (**Annexe A**). The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution is the lead Minister for the National Performance Framework as a whole.

In particular, it would be helpful if any response you provide covered the following:

- how the National Outcomes relevant to your remit have changed;
- whether these changes are appropriate; and
- whether the wider consultation exercise was sufficient.

If time allows, your may also wish to touch upon wider issues, such as:

- whether the Sustainable Development Goals have been incorporated into the NPF in such a way as to ensure that they are fully implemented;
- whether the proposed revisions to the National Performance Framework will ensure policy coherence between the different National Outcomes, National Indicators and Sustainable Development Goals; and
- the extent to which the National Outcomes are used by the Scottish Government and other public bodies to measure their performance.

To assist committees in their scrutiny, SPICe has provided a briefing on the National Outcomes and NPF, but will provide some subject-specific analysis for individual committees where appropriate.

It is up to each individual committee to decide what form, if any, of scrutiny it wishes to carry out and who, if anybody, they wish to hear from or whether they wish to

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

discuss any proposed changes to the National Outcomes within committee, by correspondence, etc.

I have set out the timetable for parliamentary scrutiny of the National Outcomes below:

29 March	Updated National Outcomes laid
w/c 16, 23, 30 April	Period for any scrutiny by committees
4 May	Deadline for responses from committees to the Local Government and Communities Committee
9 May	Last date for report to be signed off by the Local Government and Communities Committee
w/c 14 May	The Local Government and Communities Committee report to be published
w/c 21 May	Debate in Chamber

Our aim is to publish our report in the week commencing 14 May. In order to meet this timescale it would be helpful to have your committee's views on the National Outcomes that fall within your remit in the form of a letter by **Friday 4 May**.

Kind regards,



Bob Doris
Convener to the Local Government and Communities Committee

**NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK REVIEW 2018
LEAD CABINET SECRETARIES FOR EACH OUTCOME**

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution is the lead Minister for the National Performance Framework. Given their cross-cutting nature, delivery of the National Outcomes is a collective cabinet responsibility. However, for the purposes of the Parliamentary process, the table below suggests lead Cabinet Secretaries for each Outcome.

National Outcome	Lead Minister
We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work – Mr Brown
We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination	Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities – Ms Constance
We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs – Ms Hyslop
We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally	Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities – Ms Constance
We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe	Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities – Ms Constance Cabinet Secretary for Justice – Mr Matheson
We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential	Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills – Mr Swinney
We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society	Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills – Mr Swinney
We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work – Mr Brown
We are healthy and active	Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport – Ms Robison
We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment	Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform – Ms Cunningham
We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs – Ms Hyslop

