



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jeane Freeman MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Health
and Sport

Via email only

Health and Sport Committee
T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5210

Calls via RNID Typetalk: 18001 0131 348 5224
Email: healthandsport@parliament.scot

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Dear Cabinet Secretary

Pre-budget scrutiny 2020-21

The Health and Sport Committee will be holding the first of its oral evidence sessions on pre-budget scrutiny at its meeting on 21 May. We wish to request from the Scottish Government further information on several aspects of the budget, including some relating specifically to integration authorities, to inform our scrutiny.

In your letter to the Committee dated [13 March](#) you indicated that the expectation was budget settlements for Integration Authorities would be in place in advance of the new financial year. I pursued the issue in a PQ taken in the Chamber on [2 April](#) and you indicated the budgets should be published in the coming weeks. I also asked the First Minister for an update during her evidence session with the Conveners' Group on the 8 May. She indicated they would be made available as soon as possible. We still await receipt of this information. It would assist our scrutiny of integration authorities if you could provide the budget settlements for each of the integration authorities in advance of our first oral evidence session next week.

To ensure we can adhere to the timetable for the new budget process it would greatly assist if an agreement could be reached on the timetable for receipt of the integration authorities budget settlements for the next financial year too. It is expected that our evidence taking is likely to commence in May of each year. Would it be possible to request that a breakdown of integration authority budgets be provided in advance of this scrutiny commencing? Committee Clerks would be happy to liaise with your officials regarding the specifics of such an approach being adopted for 2020.

The Committee is keen to continue its scrutiny of the set-aside budget. We would therefore like to request the agreed set-aside budgets for those integration authorities where this applies for the current financial year and the two previous financial years.

The issue of brokerage for NHS boards has been explored most recently by the Committee in its one-off evidence sessions with the territorial health boards. The First Minister at her evidence session with the Conveners' Group stated that she was unable to confirm brokerage provided to NHS boards for the last financial year. Are you able to confirm when this information will be available and ensure this is provided to the Committee upon publication?

It would be helpful to receive the information we have requested in advance of 21 May 2019 so it can be used to inform our first oral evidence session.

Yours sincerely



Lewis Macdonald

Convener, Health and Sport Committee