

Economy and Fair Work Committee  
Wednesday 28 May 2025  
17<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

## Regional Inequalities and Productivity Note by the Clerk

### Background

1. The Scottish Government's National [Strategy for Economic Transformation \(NSET\)](#) is in its third year of delivery.
2. NSET is divided into five programmes of action, supported by a sixth programme focused on delivery. One of these programmes, "Productive Businesses and Regions," aims to improve Scotland's productivity across different parts of the country.
3. Productivity is a key driver of living standards, influenced by factors such as research and development, innovation, capital investment, public infrastructure, workforce skills, and the regulatory environment.
4. As part of ongoing scrutiny of NSET, the Committee has agreed to hold an evidence session to examine data and research on regional inequalities and productivity.

### Evidence Session

5. The Committee will hear today from—
  - David Phillips, Associate Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies;
  - Simon Pittaway, Senior Economist, The Resolution Foundation; and
  - Professor Bridgette Wessels, Professor in the Sociology of Inequalities, The Productivity Institute.

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**May 2025**