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Bruce Crawford MSP  
Convener  
Finance and Constitution Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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Dear Bruce,

### **Timing of Scottish Budget 2020-21**

In light of the Chancellor's announcement that the UK Budget is planned for Wednesday 6 November 2019, I am writing to advise that my proposed date for Scottish Budget 2020-21, which I notified to you earlier this month, remains unchanged as 12 December 2019.

The Written Agreement between the Scottish Government and the Finance and Constitution Committee states that the Scottish Budget will "normally" be published no more than three weeks after the UK Budget. However, I would contend that the short notice (three weeks and two days) of its Budget provided by the UK Government is not normal, and indeed the date of the UK Budget still seems contingent on events related to EU Exit.

My approach to the budget timetable seeks to balance a number of factors including notice for the Scottish Fiscal Commission, time for pre-budget scrutiny, addressing the uncertainty around EU Exit and consulting your Committee on a basis that enables arrangements to be planned. I trust this note is helpful in that respect.

I am copying this to Dame Susan Rice at the Scottish Fiscal Commission.

**DEREK MACKAY**