



Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament

Sent via email

10 October 2024

Dear Convener,

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government notified the Commission on 24 September that the Scottish Government would publish its Budget for 2025-26 on Wednesday 4 December 2024. The Commission will publish its next set of economic and fiscal forecasts at the same time.

Now that both Scottish Government officials and the Commission's staff have agreed the timetable, I am writing to make the Committee aware of the key deadlines in our forecast timetable.

The deadlines for the Scottish Fiscal Commission providing forecasts to the Scottish Government are:

- Round 1: Thursday 17 October at 4:00 PM
- Round 2: Thursday 7 November at 4:00 PM
- Round 3: Monday 18 November (final pre-measures forecast) at 12:00 noon
- Final forecasts and policy costings: Friday 22 November at 4:00 PM

Round 3 is our final pre-measures round. This means we finalise our underlying economy, tax and social security forecasts, and only Scottish Government policy can change for the final forecasts. This provides a stable platform on which the Government can finalise policy measures. We will include the effects of the UK Budget and updated OBR forecasts in our Round 2 forecasts. Alongside each of the forecast rounds the Fiscal Commission provides costings of any Scottish Government policies that we have been notified of.

All the forecasts are provided on a confidential basis to the Scottish Government to inform the development of their Budget.

The deadlines for the Scottish Government to provide the Commission with information on policies are 4:00 PM on the following dates:

- Round 1: Wednesday 9 October (including final provision of tax and social security baseline information)
- Round 2: Monday 4 November
- Round 3: Tuesday 12 November (including public sector pay information for economy forecast)
- Economy moving measures: Thursday 14 November
- Final tax and social security policies: Tuesday 19 November
- Final information on borrowing, funding, spending and public sector pay: Wednesday 27 November

Timings may be altered during the forecast period, subject to the agreement of both the Government and Commission. Policy changes submitted after the final deadline for policy measures will not be included in the forecast unless otherwise agreed. The Commission will always endeavour to include the effect of policy changes in its forecasts.

We will report back on the forecast process and if any of the key deadlines had been missed in our forecast report.

I have copied the Cabinet Secretary into this letter, which will also be published on the Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graeme Roy".

Professor Graeme Roy
Chair

Copy Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Scottish Government