

[REDACTED]
by email to [REDACTED]

11 November 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for getting in touch. You asked for my thoughts on the Scottish Government's claim that a majority of Scottish taxpayers pay less Income Tax than they would if they lived elsewhere in the UK.

As the team were working on various responses, I thought it best to respond when all that information would be available.

It is not our role to comment directly on how the Government uses our analysis. However, given the public interest in the claim we thought that it would be helpful to be clear about the basis on which our published estimates of median income were made, and also to publish some updated estimates of median income.

As you are aware, our December 2023 and December 2024 reports included a forecast of median non-savings, non-dividend (NSND) income. This is the figure which, I believe, the Government has referenced as the basis for its claim that a majority of taxpayers pay less than if they lived elsewhere in the UK. We also published the amount of income below which an individual taxpayer would pay less Income Tax than they would in the rest of the UK. This amount is a simple calculation based on the Scottish and UK tax schedules.

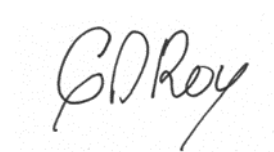
We have today published a fact sheet with updated estimates of median income, alongside information on how we derive these figures [Scottish median incomes fact sheet: Scottish Fiscal Commission estimates update – November 2025 | Scottish Fiscal Commission](#).

It is important to note that the values we published in our report were forecasts for 2024-25 and 2025-26. Through time, updated information becomes available. It is, for example, possible to provide updated estimates that incorporate more recent data including some elements of outturn data. These estimates may change over time too as further data becomes available. Estimates incorporating recent data could be higher or lower than our initial forecasts in line with typical forecasting error. In the fact sheet, we sketch out a number of additional factors that could lead to variation in median income estimates between HMRC and us given the differential access to outturn data we have.

I think it is fair to say there will not be a single definitive estimate of median income, even after all the outturn data is in place. In addition, individual taxpayer circumstances vary, so any one estimate of median income will not provide a definitive answer as to whether a majority of Scottish taxpayers pay less Income Tax than they would in the rest of the UK.

I hope you find the fact sheet and the updated estimates useful.

Yours sincerely



Professor Graeme Roy