

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

Sent via email

20 May 2025

Dear Convener,

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government wrote on 13 May to confirm that the Scottish Government would publish its Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) on 25 June 2025 rather than 29 May as originally planned.

As I indicated in my letter of 7 May to the Cabinet Secretary we will publish our pre-measure economic and fiscal forecasts on 29 May. We look forward to giving evidence to the Committee about these forecasts on 10 June.

We intend to publish an updated report alongside the Government's MTFS on 25 June. This report will restate our forecasts from 29 May and will include costings for any new Government social security or tax policies. In addition, the report will include commentary on changes in the Government's funding position since 29 May and provide our assessment of the reasonableness of the Government's borrowing plans.

The Commission's staff have agreed a timetable for the report with Government officials.

The economy forecast closed on Wednesday 30 April with a data cut-off of Friday 25 April. This forecast will not be re-visited before publication of the MTFS update report.

Our final pre-measures tax and social security forecasts were provided to the Scottish Government on Monday 12 May. These forecasts will not be changed other than to account for new policies, this means they will not reflect provisional outturn data scheduled for publication the week commencing 23 June.

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

- Tax and social security policies: Thursday 5 June
- Borrowing, spending (including pay and workforce) and funding information: Monday 16 June

We will confirm our final forecasts to the Scottish Government by 4:00 PM on Tuesday 10 June. These forecasts will include costings for any tax and social security policies notified by 5 June. The forecasts are provided on a confidential basis to the Scottish Government to inform the development of the MTFS.

We will be able to take on board any updates in pay and workforce policy notified by 16 June in our narrative, although they will not be included in our economy or tax forecasts as they will have already closed.

The deadlines we have agreed with the Government are closer to the final publication date than would normally be the case. In part this reflects our having already published our pre-measures forecasts on 29 May. It also reflects the Government having agreed to share significant extracts from their own documents earlier in June.

We will report back on the forecast process in our update report.

I have copied the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government and the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 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