

Mrs Christina McKelvie MSP
Convener
Equalities and Human Rights Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

09 February 2018

Dear Mrs McKelvie

Thank you for your response to Jenny Marra's letter of 19 April 2017, setting out your interest in improving linkages between the work of your committee and my own work programme.

I note that your committee welcomes the final report of the BPRG, and in particular, supports paragraphs 144-151, which suggest far-reaching reforms to the Equality Budget Statement, and call for more meaningful equalities information to be published before the budget.

As a member of the BPRG I fully support the recommendation that the Parliament should introduce ex-ante, concurrent, and ex-post equalities scrutiny of the budget, and I will be working with Parliament to support it in implementing recommendations.

This will be a key area of focus for Audit Scotland over the coming years, involving specific work on the implementation of the new devolved social security arrangements and the performance of the new agency.

My team and I would be happy to meet with your committee to discuss how our work on Scotland's new financial powers could support the work of your committee as you take forward this important agenda.

Yours sincerely



Caroline Gardner
Auditor General for Scotland