



To: Convener of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee

13 February 2020

Dear Ms McAlpine,

Equality analysis should be an integral part of the formulation of the Draft Budget, and the multiple approaches to scrutiny of spending allocations and the progression of outcomes. At the Equality Budgetary Advisory Group (EBAG), we have been working with Scottish Government officials and drawing on the expertise of officials and external members of EBAG. Part of our focus over the last year has been on evaluating how the [Equality and Fairer Scotland Budget Statement](#) (EFSBS) is used and how it might be improved to support the pre- and post-Budget formulation and scrutiny processes.

This year we have been working on new approaches to the EFSBS. This is a work in progress as we have been trialling different analytical tools to inform the text and analysis in the final statement. We have also been trying to respond to some of the feedback on how the EFSBS is used in Committee analysis and scrutiny of the Draft Budget.

I would encourage you to use the EFSBS in your own scrutiny and deliberations of the Draft Budget, and would welcome feedback from the Committee on how you approach equality analysis of the Scottish Budget and related outcomes, and how the Committee uses the EFSBS in this process.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your feedback.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Angela O' Hagan

(Independent Chair of the Scottish Government's Equality Budgetary Advisory Group)

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