



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE**

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Dear Derek

### **DIGITAL BUDGET**

The Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee has agreed to focus one element of its budget scrutiny this year on the issue of broadband and digital connectivity. This has been identified as a priority area for the Committee's attention and something that all its members are committed to progressing.

In carrying out preparatory work for our scrutiny of the forthcoming draft Budget 2017-18 it has emerged that the draft budget documents in previous years have included only a limited amount of information on proposed spend on digital infrastructure, particularly at level 4. As this is a priority area for the Committee we would find it very useful to have access to level 4 information. This could provide, for example, more detail on the funding which is to be allocated to the Digital Scotland project and how the Scottish Government expects it to be spent in order to fulfil its priorities.

I understand that the draft Budget 2017-18 is to be published in December. I should be very grateful if you would consider including level 4 figures for digital infrastructure - in a manner consistent with that for other budget lines - in the documentation supporting this and future draft budgets. The inclusion of this additional information would allow the Committee to conduct more effective scrutiny and would be much appreciated.

This letter has also been copied to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity for his information.

I look forward to receiving your response on this matter.

With best regards,

**Edward Mountain  
Convener**