



Bruce Crawford MSP
Convener
Finance and Constitution Committee
The Scottish Parliament

By Email

28 March 2018

Dear Convener,

The Scottish Fiscal Commission Act requires the Scottish Fiscal Commission and the Scottish Government to agree a protocol for their engagement relating to the forecasting and assessment process. As defined in the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016 ('SFC Act'), the forecasting and assessment process refers to all of the Commission's duties on the production of forecasts and forecast evaluation.

The Commission and the Scottish Government have agreed an updated version of the protocol which has been published today on the Commission's website. I have attached a copy for your information.

The production and publication of the protocol is intended to ensure there is transparency in the interactions between the Commission and Scottish Government. It therefore covers the interactions between the Commission and the Scottish Government both during the formal periods of engagement around fiscal events, and engagement outwith fiscal events.

The updates to the protocol reflect our experiences of the protocol in our first year of statutory operation and the changes to the budget process which have since been agreed. We have also added arrangements for the publication of forecasts to accompany primary or secondary legislation which affects revenue raised from a tax or expenditure on social security payments within the Commission's remit.

I have copied this letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution and DG Scottish Exchequer.

Sincerely,



Susan Rice DBE