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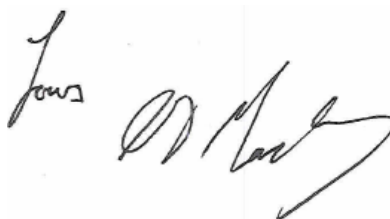
Lady Susan Rice CBE
Scottish Fiscal Commission
Governor's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DE

02 October 2017

Dear Susan,

Following the Chancellor's confirmation of his plans to publish the first Autumn Budget on 22 November, I wrote to the Finance and Constitution Committee of the Scottish Parliament on 22 September to propose a budget timetable that would see the Draft Budget be published on 14 December 2017. At their meeting on 27 September, the Committee agreed with my proposals. I am, therefore, writing to provide the Commission with maximum possible notice of the publication date and as agreed in the "Protocol for Engagement".

My officials will work with yours to agree a more detailed timetable covering the pre-Budget activity and engagement as required by the Protocol. I look forward to continuing to work with you over the coming months and to our meeting in December to discuss the Commission's forecasts.



DEREK MACKAY