

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament

Sent via email

5 April 2024

Dear Convener,

The Deputy First Minister notified the Commission on 11 March that the Scottish Government would publish its Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) on 30 May 2024. The Commission will publish its next set of economic and fiscal forecasts at the same time.

Now that Scottish Government officials and the Commission's staff have agreed the timetable, I thought it would help improve transparency if the Committee was made aware of the key forecast deadlines.

The deadlines for the Scottish Fiscal Commission providing forecasts to the Scottish Government are 4:00 PM on the following dates:

- Round 1: Tuesday 2 April
- Round 2: Thursday 25 April
- Round 3: Tuesday 7 May (final pre-measures forecast)
- Final forecasts and policy costings: Monday 13 May

The forecasts are provided on a confidential basis to the Scottish Government to inform the development of the MTFS.

The deadlines for the Scottish Government to provide the Commission with information on policies are 4:00 PM on the following dates:

- Round 1: Wednesday 20 March (funding information on Thursday 21 March)
- Round 2: Wednesday 17 April (tax and social security baseline information on Friday 19 April)
- Economy moving measures: Tuesday 30 April

- Public sector pay policy: Wednesday 1 May
- Tax and social security policies: Wednesday 8 May
- Borrowing, spending, and funding information: Thursday 14 May

Timings may be altered during the forecast period, subject to the agreement of both the Government and Commission. Policy changes submitted after the final deadline for policy measures will not be included in the forecast unless otherwise agreed. The Commission will always endeavour to include the effect of policy changes in its forecasts.

We will report back on the forecast process and if any of the key deadlines had been missed in our forecast report.

I have copied the Deputy First Minister into this letter, which will also be published on the Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graeme Roy".

Professor Graeme Roy
Chair

Copy Deputy First Minister, Scottish Government