



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Economy and Fair Work Committee

James Murray MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
UK Government

23 February 2025

Dear Mr Murray

Thank you for your letter of 9 February responding to mine of 18 November 2025. Your letter was considered by the Committee, and it was agreed that I would write to you again.

Firstly, the Committee noted your apology for the delay in replying but, nevertheless, wished me to communicate its disappointment that it took nearly three months to receive your reply. As you know, this Session of the Scottish Parliament will shortly conclude in preparation for May elections. With that in mind, I would be grateful if you would consider the following points and oblige the Committee with a response by Friday 6 March.

My letter of 18 November was about Parliament's intention for SNIB to have a full range of financing powers, the flexibility to function as a perpetual fund and the requirement for HM Treasury dispensation. Until dispensation is secured, SNIB remains reliant on Scottish Government capital funding. Your letter of 9 February set out the current funding arrangements for SNIB but did not address my substantive points which were a request for an update on HMT's consideration of SNIB's status, given its current inability to operate as perpetual fund and ongoing reliance on public funding. I also sought assurance that consideration of the public finance institution framework would include ensuring it is fully "devolution proof" and recognises the Scottish Parliament's intention in establishing SNIB.

This letter is copied to the Secretary of State for Scotland, and I look forward to receiving your early response.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Johnson MSP
Convener

Contact: Economy and Fair Work Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email: economyandfairwork.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.