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Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

27 April 2022

Dear Kenny,

2021-22 Spring Budget Revision – Covid Inquiry Spending

It has just come to my attention that there was an error in the information my officials provided to the Finance and Public Administration Committee as part of the Finance Update provided alongside the SBR document to support Committee scrutiny, specifically, the entry for Covid Inquiry costs in the analysis of Covid spending in section B2. This line erroneously included £3.2 million of spend relating to the activities of the Covid Co-ordination Directorate, which do not relate to the inquiry but which have been accidentally misattributed in the document as Inquiry-related costs. The actual Inquiry costs incurred to date are £0.7 million rather than the £4 million previously quoted.

The information provided to the Committee was to support your interest in Covid spend and was an interim reporting of unaudited information for the 2021-22 period to December. A further update on Covid spending will be provided alongside the Provisional Outturn statement in June and I shall ensure that this is subject to the appropriate level of scrutiny to avoid any such error occurring in future. I have attached an updated version of the report and will ensure the published version is updated.

Tom Arthur MSP

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