



Finance and Public Administration Committee

John-Paul Marks
Permanent Secretary
The Scottish Government

By email:

All correspondence c/o
Finance and Public
Administration Committee Clerks
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The Scottish Parliament
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19 September 2023

Dear John-Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 31 August in which you respond to the findings and recommendations in the Committee's Report on Public Administration: Effective Scottish Government decision-making. The Committee considered your response, along with that of the Deputy First Minister, at its meeting on 12 September and agreed to seek further information in a range of areas.

The Committee welcomes your confirmation that civil servants working for the Scottish Government will begin publishing reports of longer-term insights in the early autumn of 2024. We consider that these have the potential to be of use to Parliamentary Committees in their scrutiny work.

As you know the Finance and Public Administration Committee seeks evidence from you on an annual basis on a range of aspects. To inform that evidence session we therefore seek an update, by the end of March 2024, on progress in the following areas:

- Your commitment to “explore what further information can be made more accessible publicly” in relation to your role and relationships with wider civil service governance and how the civil service working for the Scottish Government explains what it does.
- The assignment to all jobs of the civil service of profession classifications, job families and job types which you explain is designed to enhance capabilities and provide for career development and identify the jobs most affected by churn.
- the review of the content of letters of delegation (to be issued in April 2024) “to ensure any issues raised by the Committee in relation to the Scottish Civil Service” are considered

- in relation to the Committee's recommendations regarding accountability for improving standards, how the Committee's recommendations have been used to inform the next phase of work on Policy Profession Standards;

The Committee looks forward to receiving your response but should you have any queries or wish to discuss this further then please do not hesitate to contact the clerks to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee