



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Finance and Public Administration Committee

James Murray MP  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury  
UK Government

**16 September 2025**

Dear James

Congratulations on being appointed as Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

The Finance and Public Administration Committee is the lead Committee for considering fiscal matters in the Scottish Parliament. We look forward to working with you in your new role.

As you are aware, further devolution and the sharing of powers in recent years means that budgetary decisions in the UK and Scotland are closely linked. The Committee is therefore keen to maintain dialogue with HM Treasury and facilitate the open exchange of information to the benefit of devolution and better scrutiny. Your predecessor's engagement with the Interparliamentary Finance Committee Forum earlier this year was a welcome step in this regard.

As part of the Committee's scrutiny in advance of the Scottish Budget 2026-27, we are considering the economic and fiscal context in the UK and what this means for Scotland's finances. We also note the recent announcement that the UK Government intends to make its Autumn Statement on 26 November. As you will be aware, the scheduling of this Statement late in the year significantly impacts on the timetable for producing the Scottish Budget and the time available for important scrutiny by this Committee and the wider Scottish Parliament.

Within this context, we extend an invitation to you to give evidence to the Committee as part of our examination of the Scottish Government's taxation and spending plans for 2026-27 within a UK context. We are keen to explore with you the fiscal challenges facing the UK economy and the impact of UK Government taxation and spending decisions on the Scottish Budget, as well as the operation of the fiscal framework more generally.

You may be aware that UK Ministers representing Labour, Liberal Democrat and Conservative parties have each attended formal meetings of the Scottish Parliament's Finance Committee in previous parliamentary sessions. These discussions made a positive contribution to scrutiny and effective relationships between HM Treasury and the Committee.

Contact: Finance and Public Administration Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.

Email [FPA.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:FPA.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

I therefore seek confirmation of your availability to give evidence to the Committee before the end of the year. The Committee clerks are happy to liaise with your officials over a suitable date.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Scottish Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

**Kenneth Gibson MSP**  
**Convener**