



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Joe Griffin
Permanent Secretary
Scottish Government

8 May 2025

Dear Mr Griffin

Congratulations on your appointment as the new Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government.

The Finance and Public Administration Committee is looking forward to working with you and invites you to our committee meeting on 24 June 2025 to discuss, amongst other issues, your priorities and vision for the public administration of the Scottish Government.

As you know, the Committee's remit includes Scotland's public finances, public service reform, and the National Performance Framework. When these matters involve the actions or advice of the civil service, we may seek insights from the Permanent Secretary. We value hearing about how the civil service supports the Scottish Government through its functions and systems.

In 2021, public administration became an explicit part of a Scottish Parliament committee's remit for the first time, when it was included in the Finance and Public Administration Committee's responsibilities. Consequently, the Committee has taken a closer look at how the Scottish Government performs its overall functions and the quality and standards of administration provided by the civil service. For example, our inquiry into [Effective Scottish Government decision-making](#) aimed to better understand the current policy decision-making process used by the Scottish Government. It also sought to enhance transparency in that process and identify the skills and key principles necessary to support effective government decision-making.

Over the course of this session, the Committee has held an annual evidence session with the Permanent Secretary on [3 May 2022](#), [16 May 2023](#), [21 May 2024](#). The most recent session took place on [18 March 2025](#) with John-Paul Marks before he moved on from his role as Permanent Secretary. On [1 April 2025](#), the Committee received an update on several areas the former Permanent Secretary committed to follow up on, though the detail provided was more limited than we would have expected.

We are eager to build on this important dialogue throughout the rest of the parliamentary session and the Committee has agreed that an early evidence session

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

Email FPA.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

would be beneficial. It is important to us that these sessions and written exchanges are as open and comprehensive as possible, allowing the Committee to thoroughly examine this aspect of our remit.

Members do understand, however, that at the time of writing, you will have been in your new role for less than a month and therefore appreciate that you will need some time to get acquainted with your responsibilities and set your priorities and so a session in late June aims to strike the right balance.

It would be helpful to have any written material in support of your evidence by 10 June 2025.

Our Clerks will be in touch with your office to take forward the practical arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener