



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Dr Stephen Pathirana
Chief Executive Officer
Scottish Public Pensions Agency

17 December 2025

Dear Dr Pathirana

Thank you for giving evidence to the Finance and Public Administration Committee in relation to the McCloud remedy on 2 December 2025.

The Committee accepts the offer you made at that meeting “to come back in front of the Committee at a future point to update the Committee on progress”. We therefore invite you to appear before the Committee again on the morning of 10 March 2026, exact timings to be confirmed.

To inform that session, we request a written update on the following issues—

- Progress as at end of February 2026 in delivering the McCloud remedy, including up-to-date numbers of cases resolved and which remain outstanding, broken down by scheme and by retirees and those still in service.
- The Committee remains to be convinced that these matters are being treated with the sense of urgency that the matter deserves. We are also uncertain if the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) is prioritising retirees and those at the end of their working lives, or instead focusing on increasing the overall numbers of cases addressed. The Committee therefore seeks evidence that the SPPA has a clear structure in place to prioritise the cases of those most in need, particularly those in or near retirement. We also ask for justification for the approach taken.
- Reassurances that the Committee and those affected can have confidence in the new timetable for delivery given the repeated delays.
- The regularity of meetings held between you and the Minister for Public Finance on progress in delivering the McCloud remedy, when you plan to next meet him and what items are on the agenda for that meeting. We further seek information on the support provided and challenge function performed by the Minister and the Scottish Government in relation to this matter.
- Comparative figures on progress in delivering the remedy in other parts of the UK and details of how the organisation is benchmarking its performance in relation to delivery of the remedy against other public companies and private companies.
- A projection of when the SPPA expects to return to ‘business as usual’.

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.

- Information on the performance of the SPPA in the five years up to it starting work on the McCloud remedy. We are particularly interested in the organisation's digital readiness and capability to be able to deal with the remedy in the most efficient and effective way, given the evidence we heard that paper-based systems were still being used.
- The date on which response times for clients requesting pension projections (unaffected by the remedy) will return to pre-remedy timescales.
- All business cases submitted to the Scottish Government in the last 10 years to enable the SPPA to properly update its digital systems.

The Committee looks forward to receiving this written evidence by 2 March 2026.

In the meantime, we are copying this letter to the Minister for Public Finance for information and for his reflections regarding his meetings with the SPPA to discuss progress with delivery.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener