

**By Email**

Our Reference: 25-059

10 November 2025

Kenneth Gibson MSP  
Convener, Finance and Public Administration Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
[FPA.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:FPA.committee@parliament.scot)

Dear Mr Gibson,

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with the Committee on 16 September. Many thanks for the invitation.

You will recall that Michael Marra MSP asked me a question about the availability and use of the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) as a mechanism for infrastructure investment amongst Scottish universities, which I promised to answer via correspondence. I have since consulted the Scottish Association of University Directors of Estates (SAUDE), who have confirmed they are not aware of the MIM being offered to or deployed within the university sector in Scotland.

As I mentioned during our meeting, and as Universities Scotland has set out in its submission to the Scottish Government's 2026/27 Budget setting process, current data shows that 17 of Scotland's universities collectively need over £850 million just to upgrade buildings to 'satisfactory' condition. In academic year 2025/26, the public funding made available to those institutions for capital maintenance via the Scottish Funding Council is £5 million. The sector is very interested in exploring all options for accessing affordable finance to enable estates transformation, in order to maintain the quality and attractiveness of our offering to staff and students.

We would be pleased to discuss the deployment of MIM, should the Scottish Government consider it an appropriate option for the sector. In the meantime we continue to pursue, with both the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council, the potential return of lending funded by Financial Transactions (FTs). Universities made effective use of FTs for several years to enable investment in their infrastructure, with a particular focus on carbon reduction projects. However, no new FTs have been available through SFC since 2024/25.



Yours sincerely,

**Lesley Jackson**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Universities Scotland**