



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Presiding Officer

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee

12 August 2025

Dear Convener

Scottish Budget process in practice

Thank you for sharing the Finance and Public Administration Committee's report on the Scottish Budget process in practice. The SPCB was very interested in the Committee's conclusions and recommendations, in particular on creating a comprehensive fiscal literacy training programme.

The Parliament's Election Programme began in January 2025, and involves all relevant offices from across the parliamentary service. Building on experience and feedback from the previous two election programmes, the programme intends to further expand our induction offering to new and returning members for 2026.

While the focus of the days prior to swearing in will, necessarily, be on essential registration and orientation activities, the intention is to use the period before committees are established to run a more in-depth induction programme. Following the summer recess in 2026, the programme will transition into Members' CPD for the remainder of Session 7.

As it happens, the Chief Executive has already discussed fiscal literacy with the Chair of the Scottish Fiscal Commission, and this was fed into the programme team at an early stage. The expanded induction programme will, therefore, include a budget process/financial literacy element, and the programme team will work with committee clerks, SPICe researchers and external bodies to develop the approach to this. There is a lot that the overall programme will need to cover, and we anticipate further requests from committees for topics to be included. We would anticipate that the bulk of the financial literacy training, after this initial induction session, will be delivered as part of the CPD programme for Session 7.

Thank you for your Committee's interest in these matters. Thank you for your Committee's interest in these matters. If you or your colleagues would like to discuss this in more detail, or if you have any questions, please contact Allan Campbell, the lead official on the Election Programme, to whom this letter is copied.

Of course, the success of the induction programme relies on the active participation of all Members - both new and returning. We would therefore encourage Members to attend as many of the induction sessions as possible. This will ensure they are well-prepared for the responsibilities ahead and can make the most of the opportunities available.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer