



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
(Minister for the Constitution and European Union Relations)
UK Government

9 January 2026

Dear Minister

Cost-effectiveness of Scottish public inquiries

In April 2025, the Scottish Parliament's Finance and Public Administration Committee launched an inquiry into the cost-effectiveness of Scottish public inquiries. The inquiry concluded in December 2025 with the publication of the Committee's [report](#).

In its report, the Committee makes a number of recommendations aimed at ensuring that public inquiries deliver their objectives more efficiently and more cost-effectively, while maintaining the public's trust and the integrity and independence of the process. As the Inquiries Act 2005 is reserved legislation, our recommendations focus on practical actions that can be implemented swiftly within this jurisdiction, including enhanced guidance and where needed amendment to the Inquiries (Scotland) Rules 2007.

The Committee notes that, in its response to the House of Lords Statutory Inquiries Committee report: Enhancing public trust, the UK Government agrees with that Committee's finding that, "The 2005 Act and the wider governance structure of public inquiries must be improved." We also note the UK Government's commitment to "examine whether there are further changes that could enable inquiries (whether statutory or not) to deliver outcomes for those directly affected and enable lessons to be learnt more swiftly and at lower cost".

I would therefore like to draw your attention to this Committee's findings and recommendations. The Committee would also welcome an update on the UK Government's review of the public inquiries framework. We would be grateful for a response by Tuesday 10 March.

Should you have any queries or wish to discuss any aspect of this further, then please do not hesitate to contact the clerks to the Committee.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener