



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Tom Arthur MSP
Minister for Public Finance,
Planning and Community
Wealth

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Via email only

Email: localgov.committee@parliament.scot

29 June 2022

Dear Tom,

NPF4

Thank you very much for your letter of 22 June.

The Committee is very pleased to read about the extent of interest in NPF4. It is welcome too to hear that you continue to want to take the time to get this right and that you recognise that thereafter the Parliament needs to be afforded time to properly scrutinise the final version of NPF4.

Having reflected on your letter, the Committee considers that to undertake effective scrutiny of the final version of NPF4 there really would need to be at least six weeks, from laying, to Parliament being invited to approve that final version. This would allow the Committee and stakeholders sufficient time to consider the final version before the Committee then took evidence from stakeholders. It would also allow the Committee to take evidence from you before making a report to Parliament to inform its consideration of that final version.

To prepare for this scrutiny it is essential that the Committee has more certainty about when the final version of NPF4 will be laid. In your letter you refer to it being laid in the Autumn. While we appreciate it may be difficult to provide an exact date, the Committee can not make preparations for scrutiny unless it has more clarity on what is meant by Autumn. For example, if you could tell us it will be laid in the last week of September or the first week of October that would enable the Committee to begin its planning for scrutiny in a much more informed way.

I look forward to hearing from you and would be grateful for a response by **13 July 2022**.

Yours sincerely

Ariane Burgess

Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee