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21 November 2022

Dear Natalie,

Thank you for your letter of 3 November regarding the Scottish Fiscal Commission's Statement of Data Needs.

I very much agree on the importance of a robust evidence base to measure the impact and effectiveness of current and future government policies and to enable full public scrutiny of those policies.

I note the assurance already provided to the committee on this issue from the Chief Statistician and the Chief Executive of Social Security Scotland and welcome the closer working with the Scottish Fiscal Commission which is already taking place and which you reference in your letter.

It is essential that we all focus on producing high quality data and keep our processes for doing so under review to ensure that we are continuously improving. I would of course be happy to update you and the committee on this work as appropriate.

Best regards,

BEN MACPHERSON

