

Pre-budget Scrutiny – Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

Note by the clerk

Introduction

1. Each year, subject committees in the Parliament carry out pre-budget scrutiny in advance of the publication of the Scottish Government's budget for the forthcoming financial year.
2. The aim is for the committees to collect evidence on spending priorities and make recommendations to the relevant Cabinet Secretary before the Scottish Government finalises its budget.
3. At this evidence session on the proposed 2025/26 budget, the Committee will hear from:
 - Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs, Don McGillivray, Director of Safer Communities and Gillian Russell, Director of Justice
4. At previous meetings this year, the Committee heard from:
 - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, FBU and the FRSA
 - Community Justice Scotland and Social Work Scotland
 - Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority
 - Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
 - Scottish Prison Service
5. The Committee have also received a number of written submissions from several organisations in the criminal justice sector. These are:

[Community Justice Scotland \(243KB, pdf\)](#)

[COSLA and Social Work Scotland \(434KB, pdf\)](#)

[Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum \(349KB, pdf\)](#)

[Faculty of Advocates \(91KB, pdf\)](#)

[Fire and Rescue Services Association \(114KB, pdf\)](#)

[Fire Brigades Union \(171KB, pdf\)](#)

[His Majesty's Inspector of Prisons for Scotland \(110KB, pdf\)](#)

[Police Scotland \(1MB, pdf\)](#)

[Procurators Fiscal FDA \(140KB, pdf\)](#)

[Scottish Fire and Rescue Service \(302KB, pdf\)](#)

[Scottish Police Authority \(116KB, pdf\)](#)

[Victim Support Scotland \(123KB, pdf\)](#)

6. The Committee is grateful to all of those organisations who took the time to send us their views.
7. At its meeting on 20 November, the Committee will consider a draft pre-budget scrutiny letter for the Cabinet Secretary's consideration.

Focus of the Pre-budget Scrutiny

8. Last year, the focus of the Criminal Justice Committee was a general one on the financial pressures on organisations in the criminal justice sector. The Committee's report is [published online](#).
9. This year, the Committee is again focusing on the financial pressures facing organisations in the criminal justice sector and views on the main priorities for 2025/26. Of particular interest to the Committee is the pressure on capital budgets and investment in policing, the fire and rescue services, prisons, courts, community justice, criminal social work and the third sector.

Action

10. Members are invited to discuss budget matters with the witnesses at today's meeting.

Clerks to the Committee November 2024