



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Peter Reekie
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Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
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The Scottish Parliament
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By email only

11 July 2023

Dear Mr Reekie,

2024-25 pre-budget scrutiny

At its meeting on 28 June 2023, the Committee agreed to continue to focus its budget scrutiny on the islands programme budget and the funding associated with the national islands plan from the Scottish Government budget. This follows a similar focus during its scrutiny of the 2023-24 budget.

To inform this scrutiny, the Committee agreed to write to ask for further information about how the Committee's 2023-24 pre-budget recommendations have been implemented. It would be helpful, therefore, if you could provide information in response to the following questions—

- With many of the 37 projects from 2021-22 (year 1) now completed, what support has Scottish Futures Trust provided to local authorities to help them measure the impact of funded projects?
- How are the 11 projects awarded funding in 2022-23 (year 2) progressing?
- How will the 13 projects funded in 2023-24 (year 3) support the national islands plan's strategic objectives?
- In light of the [Committee recommendations following its 2023-24 pre-budget scrutiny](#), was the Scottish Futures Trust's role in the process different this year compared to last year and, if so, how?
- What is the Scottish Futures Trust's view of local authorities' experiences of the competitive bidding process and the support they received from the Scottish Futures Trust for 2023-24 (year 3) allocations?
- What are the challenges of delivering capital projects on Scotland's islands?

- How important is it to have a pipeline of capital projects?
- To what extent have island communities been involved in the design, development and delivery of 2023-24 (year 3) projects?
- How is the Scottish Government and the Scottish Futures Trust ensuring that capital projects funded through the Islands Programme are additional, critical and transformative?

A response by Friday 1 September would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finlay Carson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee