

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Matt McLaughlin, Staffside Secretary, STAC
Colin Poolman, Staffside Chair, STAC

Via email

18 January 2024

Dear Matt and Colin,

Thank you for your letter of 15 December regarding the Agenda for Change Review and the Budget process. I hope this letter also addresses the matters you both raised in separate letters to me.

Firstly, I wanted to thank you for taking the time to meet with me on 21 December to discuss the Agenda for Change Review and 2024/25 pay negotiations. As I set out when we met, I am grateful to you and your colleagues for all the work undertaken to prepare the Agenda for Change Review recommendations.

During our meeting, I made clear some of the financial challenges that we face, with financial certainty being required to make long term funding decisions. The Scottish Government intends to set out a public sector pay metric in due course. This will in part be informed by decisions taken by the UK Government at their Spring Budget on 6 March, and any decisions taken by pay remit bodies such as the Pay Review Body.

I understand and appreciate that you are looking for a quick decision on the implementation of the Agenda for Change Review recommendations. However, I believe it is right that the Scottish Government takes its time to consider these recommendations in full.

I can reassure you that I am in continuous dialogue with Cabinet colleagues on the Agenda for Change Review, and as soon as I am in a position to take a decision, I will do so.

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To that effect, I will ask my officials to get in touch to arrange a meeting as soon as possible for us to discuss.

Yours sincerely,



MICHAEL MATHESON

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