

This Annex provides the Scottish Government's response to the points raised in the Committee's letter of 7 November 2019 and its annex, in relation to its pre-budget scrutiny activity. For ease of reference, the relevant text from the Committee's letter is set out in bold, followed by the Scottish Government's response.

Pg 3: The Committee would therefore find it helpful to know if the Scottish Government has come to a view about the use of distributional analysis as part of the budget process and about its use to inform future areas of policy development.

As the committee knows, the Scottish Government has been exploring the feasibility of distributional analysis. Initial reports setting out the technical and conceptual challenges were published last year. The work has continued to progress this year and it has been a significant undertaking requiring the development of new models to estimate budgetary impacts. The models and approaches are being peer reviewed over the next few months by stakeholders with the relevant technical expertise (IPPR and Fraser of Allander). Depending on their views there will need to be a period of review and correction but we would hope to be in a position to share feasibility findings later in 2020.

Pg 4: The Committee asks the Scottish Government what further work it is undertaking to provide a stronger link between the budget and the National Performance Framework.

The Scottish Budget 2020-21 identifies four key cross-cutting priorities to guide spending decisions: improving wellbeing, reducing child poverty, tackling climate change and building sustainable and inclusive growth. Within Scotland, we describe the National Performance Framework (NPF) as our 'wellbeing framework', recognising that for Scotland to become 'a more successful country with opportunities for all to flourish through increased wellbeing' requires progress towards all of the National Outcomes, and application of the NPF values. Taking a wellbeing approach to the Budget therefore means prioritising spend which delivers on multiple outcomes across the NPF, and focuses on improving opportunities for all. It also means attending to the conditions that are required to ensure wellbeing into the future, and for future generations, not only for the present.

This year's process asked portfolios to set out more detail on the National Outcomes they contribute to, and how their priorities progress these National Outcomes, with evidence where available. This is an initial step to help make the links between National Outcomes and individual budget lines. A template structure, and central guidance was used to encourage consistency in approach.

Pg 4: Regarding the human rights basket of indicators, the Committee asks the Scottish Government when the indicator: Public services treat people with dignity and respect will be available. Also, the Committee notes there has been a worsening of performance under the indicator: Influence over local decisions and asks the Scottish Government what the reasons for this are, particularly given the Scottish Government's focus on the community empowerment.

The indicator 'Public Services treat people with Dignity and Respect' is in development.

Currently we have a team from the University of Strathclyde developing an options paper, which will include a review of practical definitions of dignity and respect across different areas of public services, and proposals for approaches to measuring this in a national performance indicator. This options paper should be finalized by the end of March 2020.

Following this there will be a period for internal review and agreement on proposals for the way forward with NPFTAG and other key stakeholders. We hope that this can be concluded during Q2 2020.

We will then take steps to implement whatever is agreed. This might be a decision to gather and analyse existing data being collected by public service bodies – where this exists – or it might be a decision to insert a new question into a national survey such as the SHS. The first data might then be available in 2021 or 2022 – depending on what data collection approach is agreed and adopted.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 is giving people more control over decisions that affect them, making it easier for local people to develop their own economies, wellbeing and environments.

It provides a mechanism for community bodies to seek dialogue with public service providers on their own terms. The Act makes it easier for communities to take on public sector land and buildings and since 2017, asset transfers have been agreed with community organisations taking ownership or lease of forests, parks, woodlands, sports and recreational facilities and community hubs.

The Act also makes it easier for communities to start a dialogue and have their voice heard by contributing to the decision-making processes for service change or improvement in their local area. Since 2017, participation requests have been received which include community participation for pier safety issues, local road improvements, the future of local police offices and improvements to community halls.

The Scottish Government's programme of support for participatory budgeting has given over a hundred thousand people a say on how millions of pounds are spent on the things that matter to them in their community. The Scottish Government and COSLA will continue to work in partnership to help local authorities reach the target of having at least 1% of their budget subject to participatory budgeting, giving local people a say in how almost £100 million will be spent.

Pg 4: Scottish Government committed to providing a budget equality assessment prior to summer recess 2019. The Committee asks when this will be available and why it has not been possible to provide this in time to directly support Committees' pre-budget scrutiny and stakeholder organisations involvement in budget development.

As was discussed at the tripartite meeting with the Committee, equality budgeting is complex. It has three main parts; analysis of policies before they are implemented; analysis of spend proposals as they are made and analysis of what difference spend has made. In July 2019 the Minister for Older People and Equalities wrote to all subject committees setting out a range of performance evidence that they could use to inform budget scrutiny, that is focussing on the latter part of equality budgeting 'what difference has spend made?'. The evidence provided looked at a range of indicators to show existing and entrenched inequalities which could help Committee members explore the types of policy directions and spend needed to tackle these issues. We acknowledge that these materials focussed more heavily on performance and less on spend linkages but we wished to provide a strategic look across a range of areas rather than a deep dive into one policy. The evidence referred to included:

- [Scotland's Wellbeing](#) – This report established a baseline for the revised National Performance Framework (published in June 2019).
- [Scotland's Wellbeing: Measuring the National Outcomes for Disabled People](#) – This report considered the range of baseline evidence available to look at performance against outcomes for disabled people (published in July 2019).
- [Gender Pay Gap Action Plan analytical annex](#) – This report examines the range of structural issues behind gender inequality in the workforce (published to accompany the action plan in March 2019).
- [Child Poverty Action Plan progress report](#) – This report sets out progress on the first tackling child poverty delivery plan 'Every Child Every Chance'. It includes a child poverty measurement framework (Annex B) and a separate report on child poverty within minority ethnic households (Annex C) as well as a budgetary analysis (page 100 to 102).
- [Income Supplement Options report](#) – This report identifies the different options and impacts that were considered as part of the development of the Scottish Child Payment.

Pg 5: Age of Criminal Responsibility - The Committee is concerned about the significant disparity between the costs set out in the Financial Memorandum and those estimated by the Scottish Police Federation. As such, the Committee would like to know the timescale for completing this work and asks to be updated when a figure is available.

The Minister for Children and Young people, Maree Todd, set out the latest position in the letter to the Committee dated 30th October. We will provide an update when we have further information.

Pg6: The Committee asks the Scottish Government whether it has identified an approach to awareness raising about the Bill and what the associated costs of that approach are likely to be.

The Scottish Government is considering approaches to awareness raising as part of the work of the Implementation Group formed to consider what will be required to implement the Act. At the Group's meeting in November 2019, the first meeting since the Bill received Royal Assent, the Group discussed how some Scottish Government savings from planned spending have expanded the scope to invest in marketing related to the Act.

The Scottish Government thinks that some awareness raising could also be achieved by mainstreaming information through existing, trusted channels like the Parent Club website

Pg 6: The Committee asks if Police Scotland, COSLA and Social Work Scotland have now provided the Scottish Government with an estimate of the costs they are likely to incur as a result of the Act, and what these cost would be.

We are in discussions with Police Scotland about the costs they are likely to incur as a consequence of the Act, and we would be happy to write to Parliament with further information once these discussions have developed.

COSLA and Social Work Scotland are both represented in the Implementation Group. This will provide the Scottish Government with the opportunity to discuss costs as these organisations develop their approaches to the changes introduced by the Act.

Pg 6: The Committee asks whether the Scottish Government intends to meet such costs, should they occur, or would Parentline need to seek funding from another source.

We will consider these points in the Implementation Group.

The Scottish Government is keen to promote the role of the third sector to strengthen the support on offer to families. That is why the Scottish Government has provided £58m of third sector funding, helping thousands of children, families and communities across Scotland over the last 4 years

In April 2019 we announced a new 3 year Fund, the Families and Communities Fund, providing up to £16m per year beginning 2020/21. This will bring more stability to the sector. The Fund accepted applications from June to September 2019.

Pg 7: The Committee welcomes the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People's announcement on 20 June to establish a working group on sex and gender in data and asks the Scottish Government to provide information on the timescales it is working towards.

The working group on sex and gender in data aims to bring forward guidance to support public bodies collect and present data on sex and gender, publishing this by late spring 2020. The group is led by the Scottish Government Chief Statistician who has published more detail about the aims, progress and remaining plans for the [group](#) in his [blogs](#).

Pg 7: Further to the publication of the UN Committee's concluding observations, the Committee asks what action the Scottish Government will take to respond to these observations and whether any budget has been allocated to support their implementation.

We are developing our response to the observations, which cover a number of ministerial portfolios. Once this is completed, we will be able to share details on the work to be funded from the relevant portfolio budget lines, including the promoting equality and human rights budget.

Pg 7: in relation to the evidence provided by Engender, the Committee asks the Scottish Government what work it has undertaken to recognise women's unpaid and underpaid care work as a key sector in Scotland's economic strategy.

This government is acting to support Scotland's unpaid carers. We have established new rights for unpaid carers under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. Every carer now has the right to a personalised plan to identify what is important to them, and support to meet their eligible needs. We are investing around £320 million in 2019/20 through Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement. This funding provides an increase on Carers Allowance of 13% and gives eligible carers an extra £452.40 this year compared to carers in the rest of the UK. In addition, last year carers aged 16, 17 and 18 in Scotland became the first in the UK to be given financial support thanks to a new social security payment of the Young Carers Grant an annual £300 payment. Next year we will provide a new payment for people receiving Carer's Allowance and caring for more than one disabled child.

Scotland's Fair Work Action Plan and Gender Pay Gap Action Plan also both recognise the issues unpaid carers can face balancing work and caring, and highlight the action we are taking through Carer Positive - Scotland's accreditation scheme for employers offering flexibility for staff who are unpaid carers.

Improving fair work practices across the social care sector is a key element of our reform of adult social care programme. We have established the real living wage for social care staff and moving forward a new group 'the Fair Work in Social Care Group' has been established to focus on further embedding Fair Work in Social

Care. The group will provide advice and recommendations to the Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care.

Pg 7 The Committee asks the Scottish Government how the figure of £2million has been calculated and what measures it has put in place to ensure this will be spent by local authorities on improving Gypsy/Traveller sites.

Arrangements for the additional £2m funding is still subject to agreement by COSLA Leaders in March 2020. Scottish Government will provide £2m capital funding specifically for work on public sector Gypsy/Traveller sites during 2020/21, above the minimum standard for Gypsy/Traveller accommodation. The intention is to improve quality of life for residents, in particular those who share protected characteristics or have additional vulnerabilities, including older people, disabled people and children. This funding indicates Scottish Government's commitment to making a difference and to supporting immediate improvements on sites while we work in partnership with COSLA to progress the strategic work needed to strengthen the provision of accommodation in the longer term. It will be distributed in proportion with the amount of existing Gypsy/Traveller accommodation provided by each Local Authority. The participation of residents in decision making on the spending of this funding is paramount. The Scottish Government is working with COSLA on principles and outcomes for the funding, which specify that the funding should be spent on projects which are identified as priorities by Gypsy/Traveller site residents. We have provided funding for an officer in COSLA to provide support and principles and outcomes will be reported on through 6 monthly reporting on the Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan to the joint COSLA and Ministerial Working Group.

Pg 7 Also, the Committee asks for clarification on whether the provision of these funds impacts on the funding level of equalities budget.

This is not funded from the equalities and human rights budget.

Pg 8 It is not entirely clear to the Committee from the Action Plan what the remaining £1million will be directed towards. According to the Action Plan, the only new money committed to is a further £500,000 (2020-2022) to support flexible family learning in Gypsy/Traveller communities, through the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan. The Committee would welcome clarity on this point.

Further investment backing the action plan includes:

- £400,000 (2019-20) to test innovative ways of offering health and social care services, through three projects for example through a new Community Health Workers programme
- £100,000 (2019-20) to support community engagement around development and delivery of actions.

This is in addition to:

Response to EHRiC Pre-budget Scrutiny Letter

- £180,000 per year (2017-20) to third sector organisations working with Gypsy/Traveller communities (around half of this supports engagement with Gypsy/Travellers to influence policy and practice)
- £275,000 (2018-20) to STEP to strengthen delivery of education to Gypsy/Traveller children and young people.
- £52,000 to COSLA (2019-20) for an additional post to support local authorities to deliver the actions in the plan

This Annex provides the Scottish Government's response to the recommendations made by the Committee in its report: *Looking ahead to the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2020-21: Valuing the Third Sector*. For ease of reference, the relevant text from the Committee's report is set out in bold, followed by the Scottish Government's response.

Competition for funding

Para 60 The Committee calls on the Scottish Government to work with other statutory funders to consider how partnership working can be encouraged in a competitive funding environment. The Committee asks the Scottish Government to set out how it is doing this currently, and its plans for future improvement.

Partnership working is something we would always encourage but recognise that this is a question that must be considered on a case by case basis by both statutory and third sector partners. We would always encourage third sector organisations and statutory funders organisations to explore the opportunities for partnership working particularly where this offers best value for the communities they serve. The local TSIs are often best placed to facilitate networks locally through which collaboration can be developed which is of value to statutory funders and the third sector alike.

Para 64 The Committee asks the Scottish Government to set up a working group, involving key stakeholders, to examine the longer-term funding models available to statutory funders and for its conclusions to be made available before the end of this Parliamentary session.

The duration of funding periods is a matter for other statutory funders such as Local Authorities and the NHS. The Scottish Government is committed to working towards three year funding. The Third Sector Unit and the Equality Unit are already providing indicative multi-year grants, where relevant, to the organisations they fund.

Para 66 The Committee asks the Scottish Government and other statutory funders to alert organisations well in advance of seeking applications, and to work together to consider best practice around notification of funding applications. Sufficient time should be given to allow organisations to prepare their applications, particularly if they require language assistance, and to facilitate opportunities for third sector organisations to come together and apply as partnerships.

We endeavour to follow best practice around funding applications while recognising that the practical application of best practice will vary across cases and schemes. Working with third sector partners, we regularly offer a series of workshops available to all Scottish Government grant managers. In addition, we have co-produced with

the third sector the guidance document “Principles for Positive Partnerships” which responds to a need identified by Scottish Government Grant Managers and Third Sector Grant Holders for practical guidance on achieving and maintaining positive funding relationships. The guidance was launched on 23 January 2020.

Since 2016, the Scottish Government has provided funding to Senscot for Partnership for Procurement (P4P). P4P provides free procurement advice and helps to build consortia to increase social enterprise readiness to bid for public sector contracts.

We are happy at any time to share these resources and any available learning with other statutory funders.

Para 70 The Committee agrees that the application process for statutory funds must meet inclusive communications standards and as a matter of urgency, statutory funders should review their processes to ensure that all third sector groups, irrespective of their language or other systemic barriers, have an equal opportunity to apply for funding.

We would expect all statutory funders to comply with equality law and consider carefully systemic barriers to applying, including communication.

In our Action Plan, A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People, we state that in Scotland we want communication to be accessible to, and inclusive of, all. The Inclusive Communication Hub, funded by Scottish Government and run by Disability Equality Scotland was launched in 2016. It is an easy to use online tool, for all who wish to be more inclusive with the information they give. The Inclusive Communication Hub provides tools and guidance on how to make information accessible to people; and provides a central place where accessible information and resources that have been developed by organisations throughout Scotland can be accessed. It can be accessed at <http://inclusivecommunication.scot/>

Preventative spending

Para 114 The Committee asks the Scottish Government what leadership it is showing to other public bodies on undertaking impact assessments and for a progress report on its review of the Public Sector Equality Duty specific duties in Scotland.

The Scottish Government recognises the importance of undertaking impact assessments, both as a critical element of good policy making, and as an aspect of its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. We have developed new guidance (in the format of a short animated film) on Equality Impact Assessment to support policy teams in this work, and have begun disseminating that both internally and to other public bodies; we will be developing a programme of outreach work with other public bodies in the coming months.

Regarding the review of the Public Sector Equality Duty specific duties in Scotland, work is underway to develop a theory of change and a programme of work, with a view to identifying options in spring 2020 for reform of the specific duties and of the environment in which they operate; the review process will include a public consultation to enable the widest possible stakeholder engagement.

Para 117 The Committee asks the Scottish Government to investigate how the third sector's role in decision-making can be strengthened. This should include examining legislation, such as the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, which excludes the third sector from having voting rights.

The Scottish Government recognises the value and importance of the third sector within integration and has legislated to ensure that third sector parties are embedded at every level. When Integration Authorities are taking decisions they must ensure that any proposals being considered fully reflect the views of third sector groups and communities of interest.

On 4 February 2019 the Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care, Review of Progress with Integration of Health and Social Care - Final Report was published, which is available via the Scottish Government website <https://www.gov.scot>. It sets a challenging and ambitious agenda setting out 25 proposals for Integration Authorities, NHS Boards and Local Authorities, working with key partners, including the third and independent sectors to make progress with the implementation of integration over the next 12 months.

A specific proposal was made about relationships and partnership working with the third and independent sectors, which must improve. As part of the delivery of the review proposals, each partnership has undertaken a self-evaluation of where they currently assess themselves to be in relation to the proposals. As part of this, partnerships have begun the work of critically evaluating the effectiveness of their working arrangements and relationships with colleagues in the third and independent sectors, and will be expected to take action to address any issues identified.

The statutory responsibility for the delivery of health and social care services rest with Health Boards and Local Authorities and this is why the voting membership of Integration Authorities consists of these two parties.

We are also developing a new practical guide for Community Engagement. We have ensured that there is third sector representation on the working group developing this, and the knowledge and experience the sector bring to this area is crucial to progress.

We welcome ongoing input from the third sector, the continuation of this engagement will be particularly important as the implementation of the integration review proposals progresses.

Para 120 The Committee asks the Scottish Government what plans it has to take action to address the gap between national priorities and local delivery.

The National Performance Framework (NPF), which clearly sets out the outcomes we wish to achieve for the people of Scotland. The eleven outcomes in the NPF, supported by a clear purpose and a set of values, should form the focus of what all public servants aim to achieve for our people, our places and our communities.

In doing so, we are closely following the blueprint set out in the Christie Commission report in 2011: emphasising the role of prevention, close partnership working, outcomes-based performance, and catalysing the power of people and places – in order to improve outcomes and tackle inequalities in a sustainable way. It is this focus, supported by an interconnected programme of reform at all levels (local, regional and national), that we want to see driving improvements, delivering transformation and enabling collaboration and partnership by design.

We have worked closely with senior leaders to re-energise and refocus the Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) in order to drive these ambitions. The SLF brings together leaders from Scotland's national and local government, the health sector and across the third sector, to drive an action-orientated, values-based shift across Scotland's public services to achieve the outcomes set out in the NPF. The SLF promotes the leadership and behavioural action required to drive system change, invite challenge, and identify how public services can improve performance.

The debate is equally important at regional and local levels. Public services need to reflect the distinctive conditions of the communities they serve in how they work separately and in partnership. They may be required, through statutory duties or policy expectations, to support specific outcomes locally, for instance through health and social care integration, children's service planning or community justice planning. They may also be subject to a statutory duty to support local priorities agreed through Community Planning Partnerships.

An emphasis on people – both as public service workers and citizens - is critical, and actions need to be taken forward at levels close and relevant to them. In particular, if we do not start our reform of services around people's needs, then we will have failed to properly address the challenges set by the Christie Commission.

One specific example where we are doing this is in Social Security where the new social security system is being shaped by people with direct experience of the current benefits system, through the use of Experience Panels¹. These panels tell a strong story of collaboration and innovation – where we have developed services *with* people rather than imposing a model that we think might be best. The Panels evidence where the people of Scotland are very much active partners in designing services that meet their needs. We are committed to improving this work in the years to come, as well as sharing and applying the lessons from this approach across Scottish Government.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/engagement-on-social-security>

Para 125 The Committee asks the Scottish Government to increase the funding it provides directly to the third sector and equalities budget lines.

In this budget we have increased the Equality and Human Rights budget to £30.2m, its highest ever level, representing our commitment to embedding equality and human rights across all portfolios.

It is estimated that the public sector as a whole accounts for around a third of the third sector's income, which supports the work of charities and social enterprises. The dedicated Third Sector budget, which stands at £24.6 million for 2020-21, represents approximately 1% of total public sector investment in the third sector. The majority of this funding is provided to support the growth of social enterprises through our ten year strategy, to national support organisations such as SCVO and Volunteer Scotland and local support organisations - TSIs. These organisations allow the sector a local and national voice to influence public policy and supports the capacity of Scotland's vibrant third sector.

Para 128 The Committee seeks an assurance from the Scottish Government that as a matter of urgency, it will review with its partners (including local government), how the third sector is funded, in order to minimise any negative impact on the third sector and its service users. [in relation to the commissioning of services].

Social care procurement guidance and rules are permissive and flexible and Scottish procurement legislation requires contract award decisions to be a balance of price and quality.

Best practice procurement guidance, published in March 2016, underlines the need for greater emphasis on quality rather than cost.

The best practice procurement guidance demonstrates how, in certain circumstances, social care contracts can be awarded without open competition to accommodate social care policy aims such as personalisation and choice which the third sector plays a significant role in supporting.

Furthermore we are;

- Working with COSLA and other partners, who are committed to reforms in social care to ensure the quality and sustainability of the social care support, now and in the future.
- An important aspect of this is developing support, expectations and tools for Health and Social Care Partnerships to consistently use the full flexibility of current procurement processes.
- We are supporting this by:
 - funding the development of a national framework agreement for care and support;
 - supporting an improvement approach to commissioning; and
 - working in rural areas to widen the social care market.

The Budget Process

Para 136 The Committee asks the Scottish Government what action it will take to facilitate greater public and third sector participation in the Scottish Budget process.

In 2017 the Scottish Government and the Finance and Constitution Committee established the Budget Process Review Group to carry out a fundamental review of the Scottish Parliament's Budget process. The core objectives of the Budget Process Review Group include improving transparency and raising public understanding and awareness of the budget and to give the Scottish Parliament greater influence on the formulations of the Scottish Government's budget proposals.

Parliamentary Committees now set out their views on the delivery, impact and funding of existing policy priorities and any proposed changes including any new policy priorities as part of their pre-budget scrutiny report. Committees should submit their pre-budget scrutiny reports to ministers at least 6 weeks prior to the budget being published setting out their policy priorities. The Budget Process Review Group recommends that the development of the pre-budget scrutiny reports should be a cumulative process and that committees should build up an evidence base through each session of the Parliament.

It is during the process of building evidence which provides the public, including third sector organisations, the opportunity to put their views to subject committees, as well as individual MSPs at an early stage in the process.

In addition, as part of the Budget Process Review Group recommendations, the Scottish Government has undertaken work to improve transparency and raise public understanding and awareness of the Budget.

This includes:

- [Scotland's Finances – Key Facts and Figures](#) - The purpose of this document is to clearly set out key information about Scotland's public finances to improve transparency and understanding through clear messaging and engaging infographics.
- Budget document - The 2019-20 Scottish Budget combined the information previously contained in two documents (the Draft Budget and the Budget Bill Supporting Document) in order to streamline the process and improve transparency.
- Young Scot – The Scottish Government carried out research with Young Scot on increasing young peoples' understanding of Scotland's public finances. The final report was published in September 2019. The report recommendations will now inform the Scottish Government's Budget communications strategy.

The Scottish Government will continue to work with the Finance and Constitution Committee to further embed the Budget Review Group recommendations and to

seek the views of stakeholders and the wider public about how to make Scotland's finances more transparent and accessible in order to promote public discussion, debate and participation in financial and policy decision making.

Para 137 The Committee asks the Scottish Government to direct or encourage a greater focus on human rights and partnerships with the third sector within the budget allocation process. For example, could this be done when public bodies find out their funding settlement through budget letters/guidance.

Para 138 The Committee recognises a participative approach to public policy development will place an additional pressure on the third sector. It therefore asks the Scottish Government, in undertaking its review of resourcing of the third sector, to include consideration of this issue.

The Scottish Government recognises that a participatory approach to public policy development increases the demand placed on the third sector. That is why we invest £24.6 million to strengthen the sector with the majority of that funding provided to national support organisations including Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs), SCVO and Volunteer Scotland. These organisations allow the sector a local and national voice to influence public policy and supports the capacity of Scotland's vibrant third sector.

Human rights budgeting and equality budgeting

Para 148 The Committee welcomes an update from the Scottish Government on the new human rights taskforce and asks for detail about how the taskforce intends to include the public sector and the third sector in its deliberations.

The National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership, established to take forward the recommendations of the First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership, includes members drawn from both the public sector and civil society. The approach taken by the Taskforce has been explicitly designed to value the expertise and experience of third sector and other contributors, and to embed co-production principles. The Taskforce is co-chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People and an Independent Co-chair (Professor Alan Miller).

The Taskforce has been asked, in particular, to develop a new statutory framework to improve human rights protection for everyone in Scotland and will look at finding ways to increase public participation in the process. As part of this, the Taskforce will undertake its work in active collaboration with civil society and other partners, and will employ participative processes which enable broader public involvement. It will also oversee wider work on participation and capacity building as part of the development and implementation of the new legislation.

Para 150 The Committee would welcome an update from the Scottish Government on its work on distributional analysis (including cumulative analysis) and whether this work has included any consideration of gender equality analysis

See response in Annex A.

Budgets and the National Performance Framework (NPF)

Para 160 The Committee would welcome the Scottish Government's views on the options available to it to strengthen the links between Scotland's National Performance Framework and public bodies and how it can encourage local authorities to engage effectively with the third sector as human rights defenders and advocates for people accessing services.

We have worked closely with senior leaders from across the public sector to re-energise and refocus the Scottish Leaders Forum. The SLF is where Scotland's senior leaders come together to review progress and agree individual and collective action to achieve the outcomes set out in the NPF. The SLF comprises leaders from national and local government as well as NHS Scotland and the third sector. We are working in partnership with local government, the health sector and a wide range of representatives from across the third sector and public bodies, to drive an action-orientated, values-based shift, at pace and scale, across public services.

The SLF promotes the leadership and behavioural action necessary to drive system change, invite challenge, and identify how public services can improve performance. It is focussed on how public service leaders work individually and collectively, strategically and practically, to improve people's lives.

Accountability

Para 173 The Committee invites the Scottish Government to explain what more it could do to encourage statutory funders to be more open to third sector organisations taking a "critical friend approach" and to clarify what assistance it has made available to support grassroots organisations to better engage with national policy development.

One of the objectives of the Scottish Government's £24.6m funding to infrastructure organisations like the Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs), SCVO and Volunteer Scotland is to provide local and national voice to influence public policy. We also support the Scottish Community Alliance, a member network which engages over 2,000 community based organisations and enterprises. Intrinsic to such a role is the ability to be a critical friend and we would always encourage funded partners to take such a role.