

Call for evidence on the draft budget 2015-16

The Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee has agreed to focus its scrutiny of the draft budget 2015-16 on the 'increase exports' [national indicator in the National Performance Framework](#).

In addition, it is seeking updates on the issues it considered and highlighted in its [report on the 2014-15 budget](#). Both elements are explained below.

One: Increase exports

Below is a table showing 'inputs' which, according to the Scottish Government, should contribute towards increasing Scottish exports:

Input	Leading to	Output	Leading to	Outcome
Scottish Development International training, information and advice	→	More businesses developing the skills 'to go international'	→	Increased exports
Scottish Investment Bank support for SMEs	→	Improved access to finance for potential exporters	→	
Scottish Enterprise support for growth companies (e.g. through Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service)	→	Improve international competitiveness	→	
Encouraging foreign direct investment e.g. through RSA funding	→	Attract more foreign direct investment 'which enhances the competitiveness of our growth sectors'	→	
SG's international engagement	→	Improving Scotland's reputation and highlighting areas where Scotland has particular expertise	→	

The Committee would welcome your responses to the following questions:

- has sufficient funding by the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise been made available since 2012-13 to support the 'increase exports' National Performance Framework indicator?
- what are your views on the extent to which Scottish Government policy and spend can lead to increasing exports?

- what are your views on the type and level of public support being provided through the draft budget to increase exports? Is it being targeted in the right areas?
- what alternative spend would you propose within the draft 2015-16 budget and from what area should such resources be diverted?

The deadline for written responses is Friday 11 July 2014. Upon receipt, the responses will be published and the Scottish Government, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise will be invited to provide initial responses to the issues raised (the deadline for these responses will be Friday 5 September 2014 although they would not be published until after the referendum).

Two: Follow-up issues

The Committee has written (see 'Additional Information' for more details) to the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, VisitScotland and Skills Development Scotland seeking updates on issues [highlighted in its 2014-15 budget report](#).

The deadline for the Scottish Government's response is Friday 11 July 2014, when it will be published on the Committee's website. **The Committee will then invite the views of individuals and organisations to that response with regards to actions taken, improvements made etc by Friday 5 September 2014** (however, these particular responses would not be published until after the referendum). The Committee hopes that this approach will provide interested organisations with additional and useful information prior to commencing its oral evidence sessions in October (see 'Timetable' for more details).

Submitting written evidence to the Committee

The following points will assist you:

- submissions should be **brief** and typewritten in Word format (ideally, no more than 4 sides of A4);
- the Committee prefers to receive written submissions electronically (in Word format, not PDF). These should be e-mailed (no confirmatory hard copy is required) to: eet@scottish.parliament.uk;
- for hard copy submissions only, these should be sent to: The Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee, T2.60, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP;
- we welcome written evidence in any language;
- submissions should be set out in numbered paragraphs (1, 2, 3 etc.). Where the submission refers to existing published material, it is preferable to provide hyperlinks or full citations (rather than extensive extracts); and
- owing to the timescale normally required for the processing and analysis of evidence, late submissions will **only** be accepted with the advance agreement of the Committee clerk.

Policy for handling written evidence

Before you submit your written evidence, please ensure you read our [policy on treatment of written evidence received by subject and mandatory committees \(pdf 15kb\)](#). Written submissions will be handled in accordance with this policy.

Anyone wishing their evidence to be treated confidentially should contact the Committee's clerking team at the email address or number below prior to submitting evidence. It will be for the Committee to decide whether or not to accept the submission on the basis that it will not be published (though it will be seen in full by the Committee). However, the Parliament is required to consider requests for information under freedom of information legislation and is therefore unable to guarantee that the evidence will never