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*Kenneth,*

Thank you for your letter of 6 December regarding the timetable for publishing the Draft Budget 2015-16.

I recognise the need both to reflect the unique circumstances presented by the timing of this year's referendum on Scotland's Future and to ensure that our timetable provides sufficient time for the Finance Committee and other committees to scrutinise the Draft Budget.

I would therefore like to propose that the Scottish Government should publish the Draft Budget 2015-16 by Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

I would be grateful if you could let me know whether the Committee would be content with this approach.

*Yours,*

*John*

**JOHN SWINNEY**