

Finance Committee

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Dear John,

DRAFT BUDGET TIMETABLE

Thank you for your letter dated 11 February 2014. The Committee welcomes your commitment to publish the draft budget by 30 October rather than 13 November. However, the subject committees will still need to report to the Finance Committee prior to the Christmas recess which means they will have less opportunity to take evidence on the draft budget. On this basis the Committee considers that it would be preferable for the draft budget to be published prior to October recess. The Committee asks for an early response so that we can begin our planning for the scrutiny of Draft Budget 2015-16.

Kenneth Gibson MSP Convener