



## **WRITTEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY CORPORATE BODY ON THE BUDGET PROCESS IN SESSION 4 OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT**

### **Introduction**

1. This document sets out a revised agreement between the Finance Committee and the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB), in relation to the annual budget process. It is not intended to create any legal rights or obligations on either the SPCB or on the Committee.

### **The Parliament's Budget**

2. The expenditure plans of any body which has a prior call on the Scottish Consolidated Fund will reduce the total amount available to the Scottish Ministers for inclusion in their plans. The Parliament's own budget falls into that category. It is therefore important that, wherever possible, accurate information about the spending plans of the SPCB is made available to the Finance Committee and the Scottish Government at an early stage.

3. The SPCB has agreed that it will provide a draft budget to the Committee and to the Scottish Government, no later than the end of the first week in November.

4. The SPCB has also agreed to keep both the Committee and the Scottish Government informed of any substantive changes to the Scottish Parliament's budget in recognition of the fact that these would affect the Scottish Government's expenditure plans and the Parliament's consideration of them.

5. The SPCB also agrees that, in order to assist the Committee's understanding of the expenditure plans, Members of the SPCB, the Clerk and parliamentary staff will provide information and give evidence to the Committee when requested.

6. The Finance Committee will consider and report on the SPCB's draft budget as part of its wider budget scrutiny.

7. The SPCB's final expenditure proposals will appear in the annual Budget Bill which will be voted upon by the Parliament.