

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC AUDIT COMMITTEE TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT, DATED 6 MAY 2015

MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

I am writing on behalf of the Public Audit Committee to thank you and your colleagues for the oral evidence you gave to the Committee on 29 April on the Scottish Government's Major Capital Projects March 2015 progress update.

During your evidence session, you committed to provide the Committee with further information on a number of areas including:

- An update on the progress with upgrading the harbour for the Ullapool-Stornoway ferry and its impact on cars being carried by the ferries during summer 2015 (as well as any mitigation being proposed such as alternative routes for cars);
- An update on the sale of specific sites at Inverness College (Midmills and Longman) and details of how the money from the sale of these sites will be used;
- The names of the eight schools that would be most immediately affected by the process of review by ONS in relation to ESA10;
- More generally a summary of the purpose of ESA10 and what its impact has been on public sector capital projects in Scotland (as well as a copy of the Inspired Parliamentary Question response from the Deputy First Minister on 13 February you referred to in oral evidence);
- An update on progress with procuring the two new 100-metre CMAL ferries;
- A comparison of the difference in public sector costs and savings (including any dividends into the public purse) between the previous PFI contract at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and the new NPD contract for the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary Sick Children's Hospital on the same site; and
- Information on the costs and savings of the original contracts for facilities management services compared with the 'extended' contracts at Hairmyres and Wishaw Hospitals.

The Committee acknowledges your commitment in evidence to ensure that the summary of changes, listed in Annexe B of the MCP update, clearly identifies any significant variations in cost and/or timescale for any project identified within the MCP update such as the delay in construction of eight schools due to the ONS review arising from ESA 10.

As you may be aware the Committee reviewed its approach to scrutiny of future MCP updates. We have agreed to continue with scrutiny of 6 monthly MCP updates at Committee meetings.

I would welcome a response on the above issues by **Monday 1 June**. Should you have any queries, then please do not hesitate to contact Gary Cocker, the Assistant Clerk to the Committee on 0131 348 5236 or by email on pa.committee@scottish.parliament.uk.

Yours sincerely

Paul Martin MSP
Convener to the Public Audit Committee