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Gordon Lindhurst MSP
Convener
Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee

21 November 2019

Dear Gordon,

Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee Report on ‘Scotland’s Economic Performance’: update on commitments

Thank you for your letter of 7 October seeking an update on the Scottish Government’s response to the Committee’s report on ‘Scotland’s Economic Performance’. The Scottish Government’s responses to the specific commitments highlighted in your letter are set out in Annex A.

In your letter you also requested an update from Nora Senior, Chair of the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board. I have been informed by my officials that this has now been organised and I am sure this will be a positive and productive meeting.

As I stated in my letter last year, I welcome the work the Committee has undertaken in examining the performance of Scotland’s economy and engaging a wide range of individuals in considering which economic policies will best serve Scotland in the forthcoming decade. The policies and activities examined span the responsibilities of several core Scottish Government Departments, partners and agencies.

Scotland has huge economic potential and we are well placed to take advantage of the economic opportunities that come from our strengths in various sectors. I launched the Economic Action Plan in October 2018 to demonstrate the range of work the Scottish Government is doing across various policy areas to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth. An updated version will be relaunched early next year to reflect the progress that has been made since last year, as well as highlighting the new actions included in this year’s Programme for Government. The actions in this plan will put Scotland at the forefront in transitioning to a carbon neutral, circular economy. This will enable us to reach our targets to end Scotland’s contribution to climate change by 2045.

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As the Committee acknowledged in the report, there are also considerable challenges facing the Scottish economy, in particular ongoing uncertainty caused by Brexit. The focus on the refreshed Economic Action plan is to look to the future and how we will work to grow the economy whatever the circumstances may be following Brexit. It sends a clear message to businesses that this Government is committed to supporting them to prepare for, and be resilient to, this significant and disruptive change.

Finally, I would like to reassure the Committee of this Government's determination to build Scotland's economy. Our strong commitment to address each of the recommendations from this report and our progress since then emphasises the importance of promoting and boosting inclusive economic growth.



DEREK MACKAY

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Annex A

Commitment	SG Update on Progress
<p>1.1</p> <p>Undertake behavioural insight work to better understand the ‘fear of heights’ and lack of business confidence in growing successful companies.</p>	<p>The behavioural insight research has been completed and published – available here.</p>
<p>1.2</p> <p>Have regular meetings of the Scottish Business Growth Group to take steps to prepare businesses to trade with countries outside the EU.</p>	<p>We have extended the lifespan of the Scottish Business Growth Group at the request of the business organisations. This will continue for two additional years beyond the original lifespan (to at least April 2021). The last meeting of the group was held on 7 March 2019. The next meeting will be scheduled after the election. Further information on the group (including agreed minutes) is available here: https://www.gov.scot/groups/scottish-business-growth-group/</p>
<p>1.3</p> <p>Undertake work, alongside the Enterprise Agencies, to evaluate the growth sectors by the end of 2018. This will include looking at sectors which currently have low productivity. It was also noted that whilst there are issues with placing economic values</p>	<p>The Office of the Chief Economic Adviser publishes regular briefings on each growth sector. These briefings provide access to a comprehensive database covering latest trends and economic performance for growth sectors, including at local authority level. These briefings are published on the Scottish Government website:</p> <p>https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Business/Publications/GrowthSectors</p> <p>Since our previous response, Scottish Government analysts have had to reprioritise analytical resources to focus on understanding the impacts of a no-deal Brexit to key sectors and the Scottish economy more widely. We have no plans to revisit the work on growth sectors in the foreseeable future. The Strategic</p>

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<p>on the care sector, it will also be considered within this analysis.</p>	<p>Board, through its Analytical Unit, will be working with the E&S agencies to improve evaluation, including the development of a measurement framework that will allow the board to track spend and progress on outcomes.</p>
<p>1.4</p> <p>Ensure that the Women in Enterprise Action Group consider the funding streams available to female entrepreneurs and report on provision for improvement in this area in September.</p>	<p>A paper on access to finance was presented and discussed at a meeting of the Women in Enterprise Action Group in September 2018. In October 2019, The Group discussed the findings of the Alison Rose Review of Female Entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Work on access to finance is being considered alongside Group-commissioned academic studies on women in business in order to develop proposals for a sustainable framework of support for women in enterprise. Recommendations from the Scottish Government’s Independent Adviser on Women in Enterprise will be presented and considered at the next meeting of the Women in Enterprise Action Group at the start of next year.</p>
<p>1.5</p> <p>Work closely with the employee-ownership sector and Co-operative Development Scotland, through Scottish Enterprise and HIE, to establish a new Industry Leadership Group for Employee Ownership (EO).</p>	<p>Scotland for EO was formerly launched in August 2018 as the industry leadership group linking industry and Government through a single, unified strategy. Its principal role is one of sector leadership, ensuring strong alignment with Scotland’s ambition to build an open, inclusive, diverse, tolerant and progressive democracy.</p>
<p>1.6</p> <p>Agree and publish targets for increasing employee ownership in Scotland.</p>	<p>Scotland for EO has an ambition to see an increase in the number of employee- and worker-owned businesses from around 100 to 500 by 2030.</p> <p>Co-operative Development Scotland (CDS) is the arm of Scotland’s enterprise agencies which supports economic development by promoting collaborative and employee ownership models. CDS provides support and advice to businesses considering employee ownership, including outlining potential ownership structures, governance systems, engagement mechanisms and potential funding options for a sale to employees. If clients decide it is the right exit strategy for their business, further support includes</p>

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	<p>help to choose appropriate experienced advisers, providing partial grant support for advisory work and also input to projects where necessary.</p>
<p>1.7</p> <p>Enhance economic statistics through the Scottish Economic Statistics Plan 2018-19</p>	<p>Following last year’s successful pilot of online data collection for the Global Collection Survey, this year OCEA has successfully moved to the vast majority of Export data collection being via web completion; reducing the response burden on businesses.</p> <p>OCEA has also created a user friendly tool which will help businesses and others to interrogate the export data more effectively. This tool, the Export Performance Monitor, was published online in November 2018 and has received very positive feedback.</p> <p>We are still exploring boosts to UK trade surveys with the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Department for Internal Trade and the other Devolved Administrations to achieve more detailed Scottish Trade data and also to obtaining access to administrative trade data from HMRC. With our encouragement, HMRC is publishing more sub-regional trade information and we continue to work with them on improving the range and quality of available data.</p> <p>We are currently working with ONS ,BEIS and the other Devolved Administrations to utilise the Annual Population Survey to gather more statistics which cover fair and inclusive work. Two new questions will be added to the Annual Population Survey in January 2020 which will allow us to analyse data on “opportunities for career progression” and “involving employees in decision making” for the first time.</p> <p>The revamped Annual Compendium of Scottish Energy Statistics (<u>ACSES</u>) was published in May as a companion document to the <u>Annual Energy Statement</u>. ACSES replaces the Energy In Scotland publication and structures statistics across the six key priorities in Scotland’s Energy Strategy: renewables and low carbon, local energy systems, energy efficiency, consumer engagement, system security and flexibility and oil and gas. The focus for ACSES has been on accessibility and clarity of statistics for all users, by adopting a ‘slidepack’ format with one page for each area.</p>

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A host of new statistics were developed for this publication, including a suite of statistics on system security and flexibility and data on energy consumers (e.g. switching, smart metering, etc). New data developments continue since the publication, with further statistics being produced on heat, metering and industrial and service breakdowns of consumption and productivity measures. The [energy statistics database](#) was published for the first time in October 2018. This collated Scottish energy data in one place and was continually updated for revisions and as new data became available.

In December 2019, we will issue the Energy Statistics Hub. This is an app which is a one-stop shop for the full suite of energy statistics. For each section this will include interactive charts with the option to download static charts for use in presentations, full commentary and data sets. The test site for the Hub can be found [here](#).

New data sources have been identified for the heat map and will include data from EST's Home Analytics database as well as information from non-domestic EPCs for the first time. Work is ongoing to process these sources and an update to the heat map is expected in the first half of 2020. Heat maps have also been published at Local Authority level.

Work is ongoing to reduce data gaps in non-domestic buildings data. This involves work with EST and other stakeholders to improve the quality of data we have available. We are combining several large datasets to construct a data warehouse at a building level. This will help us with the work to improve non-domestic data coverage and help estimate electrical heat demand and potentially measure low carbon heat.

OCEA has improved the quality and timeliness of its GDP publications. The GDP "first release" timetable has been advanced by around two weeks and the second release (Quarterly National Accounts for Scotland - QNAS) has been enhanced with more analytical breakdowns as requested by users.

The needs of the Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) have been a particular focus over the past year. QNAS now incorporates real-terms estimates of GDP expenditure components for the first time. This provides more detail about the GDP elements used by the SFC in the detail of its forecasts. Additionally, more work

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has been carried out to provide a more detailed breakdown of public sector expenditure by different levels of government. Further details are available in OCEA's response to the SFC's Statement of Data Needs: <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00543309.pdf>.

New statistical outputs on the whole of Scotland Economic Accounts (GDP and trade for Scotland, including the Scottish part of the North Sea) and Gross National Income (GNI, an enhancement to GDP taking into account financial flows into and out of Scotland) have been published for 1998-2017.

Natural Capital Accounts have been published for Scotland for the first time in 2019.

We continue to make improvements to all our Economics Statistics publications including more use of visualizations such as infographics and slide-packs.

We have greatly increased the range and quantity of Economic Statistics we publish on the Scottish Open Data Platform including statistics at Scotland and Local Authority level on:

- Exports
- Earnings
- Economic activity
- Economic inactivity
- Employment
- Unemployment model based estimates
- Full time and part time employment
- Gender employment gap
- Gender pay gap
- Living wage
- Self-employment
- Underemployment
- Energy consumption broken down by fuel type and local authority and renewable electricity.

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	Further work has been carried out to enhance the range of sub-Scotland economic statistics. Details of these developments and the outputs of the Sub-Scotland Economic Statistics Group can be found here: https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Economy/ScotStat/comms
1.8 Publish further elements of the Growth Scheme in September and October 2018, with monitoring mechanisms to ensure delivery agents meet targets	The further elements of the Scottish Growth Scheme were announced in January 2019, following a procurement process. Five Fund Managers were selected to deliver microfinance, debt and equity. The monitoring of the performance of the different elements available under the Scottish Growth Scheme is actively undertaken by officials. This will be driven by demand from SMEs, which has been influenced by the current uncertainty over Brexit. When demand is low for a product, like under the Scottish European Growth Co-investment Programme, available resources have been redeployed to fund complementary activity, for example the Scottish Loan Scheme, delivered directly by Scottish Enterprise, which was introduced to provide loans in range from £250,000 to £2m, and in exceptional circumstances up to £5m. As shared last month with the Committee, details on the performance of the different elements of the Scottish Growth Scheme are readily available and shared more widely with the Scottish Parliament in response to PQs.
1.9 The Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board developing a performance framework that will be consistent with the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework. Individual agencies will continue to use bespoke frameworks in parallel.	<p>The Strategic Board's Analytical Unit has developed, in close collaboration with the enterprise and skills agencies, a Performance Framework which will inform the Strategic Board how Scotland performs on productivity, equality, wellbeing and sustainability. The framework is consistent with the National Performance Framework, and therefore the Government's Economic Strategy, and draws on best practice in evaluation.</p> <p>The framework was approved by the Strategic Board in March 2019 and the Board has received quarterly updates of performance against high level indicators in the framework. A more detailed assessment of performance will be provided to the Board in the Annual Report due in January 2020.</p>
1.10 Recognise the impact women in business play in the economy by introducing a measure to understand	<p>The Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills provided an update to the Committee Convener on 11 June 2019 setting out actions being taken in furtherance of our support for women in enterprise.</p> <p>In addition, Scottish Enterprise is committed to ensuring its activities are inclusive and sustainable. A key part of this inclusive approach is gender balance. Scottish Enterprise supports, enhances and promotes</p>

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the impact of their activities. This will establish baseline information that will allow SE to consider introducing further outcome measures for inclusive growth.

the role of women in business through many programmes and products, including, for example, the Principally Women project, which supports women into leadership positions. Our previous inclusive growth tracking measures, specifically those that related to protected characteristics such as gender, were impacted by the introduction of new GDPR legislation. Scottish Enterprise places the highest priority on the protection of its customers' privacy.

Scottish Enterprise is therefore currently working on a GDPR-compliant mechanism to gather baseline data on the gender ownership of our client companies with plans to extend this to the other protected characteristics. This will inform our approach to working with women-owned businesses and inform future measures if any under-representation is identified.

1.11

Work with the UK Government to ensure the UK Industrial Strategy delivers maximum benefit for Scotland.

We are fully committed to working with the UK Government to ensure the UK Industrial Strategy (UKIS) delivers maximum benefit for Scotland. In particular:

- We are clear in our desire to support businesses, Higher Education Institutions and research organisations to leverage UKIS funding;
- We are placing our support firmly in the context of our existing Economic Strategy, plans and significant funding (e.g. NMIS, Innovation Centres, increased funding for R&D) which are already investing in Scotland's economic future at scale and pace;
- Beyond improved collaboration with the UK Government, we are co-ordinating activity with our partners to promote opportunities and form consortia leading to ambitious proposals for UK Industrial Strategy investment which play to Scotland's industrial and research strengths;
- the Strategic Board continues to monitor the progress of our enterprise agencies in their efforts to increase the level of Scottish businesses participating and securing UK Industrial Strategy funding; and
- The overall aim is for Scottish businesses to match the performance level of Scottish Universities who secured an average of circa 14% of total UK Research Council spend on UK universities over the last 3 years.

Key developments to date include:

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- **Apr '19:** the UK Government announced that £87 million of UKIS funding has been awarded to 163 Scottish organisations since its launch in April 2017.
- **Sep '19:** four Scottish projects (of 23 across the UK) have reached the final stage of the Strength in Places Fund (SiPF) competition. These projects received up to £50,000 to work up full proposals which were submitted to UK Research and Innovation.
 - We expect 4-8 winning projects, who will be awarded up to £50 million across 3-5 years, across the UK to be announced for SiPF Wave 1 in April 2020.
- **Oct '19:** Expressions of Interest for SiPF Wave 2 closed earlier this month and again Scotland has demonstrated it has no shortage of innovative and ambitious ideas for more prosperous places.

A sample of projects led or including Scottish partners awarded Industrial Strategy Challenge Funding (ISCF):

- The £56 million Medicine Manufacturing Innovation Centre (MMIC) has been awarded £13 million from the ISCF.
- The Edinburgh Centre for Robotics (a joint venture between Heriot-Watt and the University of Edinburgh) has been awarded £14.3m from the ISCF through a competition led by the Engineering and Physical Research Council (EPSRC) for a research and innovation hub, Offshore Robotics for Certification of Assets (ORCA).
- A new £15.8 million artificial intelligence health research centre, iCAIRD, will receive £10 million funding from the ISCF to develop infrastructure to apply AI in digital diagnostics, pathology and radiology.
- The Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC) has been involved in a number of opportunities around the ISCF Wave 2 Transforming Construction programme (£170 million). CSIC is a partner on the Manufacturing Better Buildings project, Advanced Industrialised Methods for the Construction of Homes (AIMCH), total project costs of £6.5 million. CSIC sit on the Steering Group and lead on two of the nine work packages.
- The European Marine Energy Centre, Orkney, is leading on a £28.5m project called 'ReFLEX Orkney' receiving just over £14m from the ISCF (Wave 2 – Prospering from the Energy Revolution) which will

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	<p>demonstrate a first-of-its-kind Virtual Energy System (VES) linking local electricity, transport, and heat networks into one controllable, overarching system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several Scottish businesses (working in conjunction with other partners from across the UK) have received funding of more than £4 million from the Faraday Battery Challenge, part of ISCF Wave 1. • RSK Environment, Fraunhofer UK Research, Optocap, and UniKLasers are among a consortium of scientific and engineering companies whose Gravity Pioneer project was awarded £6 million from ISCF in August 2018 under the Wave 2 Commercialising Quantum Devices competition. The project aims to develop a new instrument that utilises quantum cold-atom sensors that will detect and monitor objects beneath the ground, reducing the need for investigating drilling or digging. • Seven new data research hubs are to be established in the UK that will use advances in technology to connect and analyse health data to increase the pace of research into medicines development, treatment and technologies that support quicker diagnosis of disease. The BREATHE hub at the University of Edinburgh will be a specialist centre for respiratory health that will seek to improve the lives of people living with conditions such as asthma and COPD. It was announced in September 2019 that BREATHE will share a four-year £37 million investment from the ISCF with the six other data hubs across the UK.
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<p>1.12</p> <p>Further consider what more could be done to support job transitions, in-work training and reskilling through the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board.</p>	<p>The Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board continues to promote the value of in-work training and upskilling/reskilling in the work force - through its Strategic Plan and the Board's recent recommendations to the Spending Review. The principles that the Board set out in its Strategic Plan relating to these themes have been adopted by the SG's Future Skills Action Plan when it was published in September this year, which set out a range of actions to improve access to upskilling and reskilling opportunities, including a commitment to double its investment in the Flexible Workforce Development Fund to £20m from next year.</p>
<p>1.13</p> <p>Ensure by 2021 every child will begin to learn an additional language when they start primary 1 and a second from primary 5 at the latest.</p>	<p>We are committed to expanding and improving language learning in Scotland's schools, recognising the importance for Scotland that our young people are attracted to learning languages, so that they are well equipped for life and work in the ever-changing global marketplace.</p> <p>Our ambition, in accordance with the '1+2' European model of language learning, is to enable and encourage every child to learn two languages in addition to their native tongue. By 2021 every child will begin to learn an additional language when they start Primary 1 (age 5), and a second from Primary 5 at the latest (age 9), with the expectation that this will continue until they reach their third year of secondary education.</p> <p>To support delivery of this ambition we have invested £30.2 million since 2013 to assist local authorities with the implementation of the 1+2 language policy. We have set up a Strategic Implementation Group to oversee delivery of the policy, with Education Scotland providing strategic level support and guidance to schools.</p> <p>We also provide funding to the following organisations to support delivery of this ambition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland's National Centre for Languages and the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools, who provide practical support for language learning and teaching (c£1.3 million for 2019-20); • The British Council to administer its Language Assistant programme for Scotland (£195,000 for 2019-20); and • The Scottish European Educational Trust's 'Euroquiz' competition (£38,000 for 2018-19).

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	<p>We have also put in place a wider engagement network to take forward actions concerning direct engagement with employers, further and higher education, and those linked with industry.</p>
<p>2. Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee's 5 concluding recommendations:</p>	
<p>2.1</p> <p>The Economic Strategy is reviewed and updated as a matter of urgency, not least to take account of the potential economic consequences of Brexit; <i>Whilst we believe the Economic Strategy remains relevant, we need to monitor what we are doing to ensure our efforts to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth address changing financial, economic and social factors, which are often beyond our control.</i></p>	<p>Scotland's Economic Strategy remains relevant as a framework setting the long-term approach for delivering sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Scotland's economy.</p> <p>The Scottish Government monitors and analyses changing financial, economic and social factors and responds accordingly, for example, through the recently published 'Scottish Government overview of 'no deal' Brexit preparations.'</p> <p>We will look to develop and strengthen our approach for any future iterations of the Economic Strategy.</p>
<p>2.2</p> <p>Whilst the creation of the Strategic Board is welcome the enterprise and skills agencies need to be much more clearly focused on delivering on the strategy; <i>The Strategic Board will bring improved clarity based on evidence and data, as well as focus on delivery,</i></p>	<p>The outcomes and indicators from the National Performance Framework are the starting point for the Strategic Board in developing its performance framework. This initial work has helped with ensuring greater alignment and consistency across our agencies.</p> <p>In delivering this work it is appropriate for the agencies and other partners to develop their approach to inclusive growth and associated indicators in a way which suits their circumstances - what's right for SE won't necessarily be right for HIE or the new South of Scotland agency.</p> <p>In order to meet this recommendation the Strategic Board has:</p>

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<p><i>to the enterprise and skills support landscape, ensuring that its recommendations are firmly rooted in good evidence and data. The Board is developing a performance framework that will be consistent with the Scottish Government’s National Performance Framework, and therefore with the Economic Strategy.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered a range of evidence around four initial, interconnected 'missions' with the potential to drive economic growth: Business Models and Workplace Innovation; Future Skills; Business Creation and Growth; and Exporting; • The Board developed evidence-based actions and recommendations around the four missions which have been accepted by the Scottish Government and are now being taken forward by the agencies and included in their operational plans; and • The Board has received quarterly updates on progress against each of the four missions. In addition the Board has overseen a process of alignment of the agencies’ Operational Plans such that they are much more closely aligned between the different agencies in support of the aims of the Strategic Plan. Agency operational plans now make clear how they contribute towards the Strategic Plan and its missions, and state explicitly how they will take forward the Strategic Plan’s actions.
<p>2.3</p> <p>There is a consistent, commonly held and settled definition of inclusive growth and this should be reflected in the enterprise and skills agencies’ operational plans; <i>the Scottish Government defines inclusive growth as growth that combines increased prosperity with greater equality, creates opportunities for all, and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity fairly. The Government is committed to creating a shared understanding of both what inclusive growth is, and how it can be achieved</i></p>	<p>The Scottish Government has a consistent definition of inclusive growth, which is growth that combines increased prosperity with greater equality, creates opportunities for all, and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity fairly.</p> <p>The Scottish Government has developed an inclusive growth outcomes framework and data tool – focused on the 5 “Ps” of Productivity, Participation, Population, People and Place, as well as sustainability – published on Scotland’s Centre for Regional Inclusive Growth (SCRIG): https://www.inclusivegrowth.scot/. This is aligned with the National Performance Framework and helps set out the core aims of inclusive growth for policy makers and practitioners and aims to ensure a consistent understanding of what inclusive growth is and how it is to be measured.</p> <p>That definition, backed up by the Fairer Scotland duty, provides strategic direction to policy interventions and programmes across Government, by enterprise agencies and by other public services.</p> <p>At a strategic level, our Economic Strategy is absolutely clear that inclusive growth means, for example:</p>

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(particularly through the Strategic Board's Plan).

(1) Promoting fair work and good quality jobs – through, for example, our Labour Market Strategy, the Fair Work Framework, and our Fair Work First approach through which we fair work conditionality will be attached to public sector grants, funding streams and contracts;

(2) Promoting equality and tackling inequality – through, for example, free childcare, action on women's enterprise and action to increase the employment of women and disabled people; and

(3) Focusing on place – ensuring that success and opportunity is shared across all of Scotland.

That is reflected in our Letters of Strategic Guidance to the enterprise agencies.

However, we recognise that it is also important to allow for some flexibility at a local level – so that priorities in different places and amongst different groups of people can be reflected in the process and practice of inclusive growth. Our inclusive growth outcomes framework and data tool therefore provide this flexibility, allowing for the addition of these priorities to the framework.

The inclusive growth agenda involves a place-based approach to economic growth, and the Scottish Government recognises that operationalising inclusive growth may involve different approaches in different regions and localities depending on local contexts. SCRIG also works with regional partners to identify and share case studies that illustrate how partners are working to deliver inclusive growth outcomes. This will continue to seek to demonstrate how inclusive growth approaches can be implemented in different spatial contexts, and at different geographical scales, and help promote understanding of what works best in particular contexts.

The Strategic Board's Plan sets out how to drive productivity and inclusive growth through a focus on four initial "missions": Business Models and Workplace Innovation; Future Skills; Business Creation and Growth; and Exporting. The Strategic Board's Plan set out 14 actions for the agencies to undertake in order to deliver against the ambition of the missions' aims. In 2019, for the first time, and at the board's urging, the enterprise and skills agencies undertook to align their operational plans in terms of process,

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	<p>timing but also, importantly, content. Each of the agency operational plans now share a vision, one which supports the Strategic Board’s Plan, Economic Strategy and Economic Action Plan to deliver inclusive growth. In addition the agency operational plans now use common planning assumptions shaped by the Scottish Government’s economic analysis as well as making clear how agency activity supports the outcomes of the National Performance Framework.</p>
<p>2.4</p> <p>There is a robust and appropriately resourced action plan that identifies lead responsibility for key areas of the strategy; <i>We agree with this and are exploring the best way to deliver this.</i></p>	<p>The Economic Action Plan (EAP) was launched in October 2018 to demonstrate the work this Government is taking to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth.</p> <p>The main aims of the Economic Action Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is designed to support a competitive business environment, investing in a highly skilled workforce and nurturing the economy of the future; • The actions in the Plan will put Scotland at the forefront in transitioning to a circular economy, Enabling us to end Scotland’s contribution to climate change by 2045; • The focus on the refreshed plan is to look to the future and how we will work to grow the economy whatever the circumstances may be following Brexit; and • Work in partnership with businesses and our enterprise agencies to deliver many of the commitments of the plan <p>A revised and updated version of the Plan will be launched in early 2020 to reflect progress in implementing measures and to reflect new commitments included in this year’s PfG.</p> <p>Scottish Government officials closely monitor progress of actions in this plan which identifies lead responsibility for key areas and ensures policy areas deliver on their actions.</p>
<p>2.5</p> <p>A comprehensive, monitoring and evaluation framework is in place to</p>	<p>Reporting on progress against the National Performance Framework can be found at www.nationalperformance.gov.scot. The performance framework being developed by the Strategic Board is complementary to the NPF, providing additional insight into evidence and data.</p>

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<p>measure outcomes and establish what works; <i>the National Performance Framework went through an extensive change process following consultation. As a result of this exercise, the revised 11 National Outcomes are the outcomes we want to see as a result of the contributions of all of Scotland. This includes national and local government, the wider public, private, third sectors, and civil society</i></p>	
<p>3. Update from Chair of the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board:</p>	
<p>3.1 Update from Nora Senior</p>	<p>Committee to organise a meeting with Nora Senior in due course.</p>

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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