



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee**

Charlotte Wright,  
Chief Executive,  
Highlands and Islands Enterprise

The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
Tel: 07870 541021

Sent by email only

economyenergyandfairwork@parliament.scot

8 July 2020

Dear Ms Wright,

### **COVID-19 and the enterprise agencies**

The Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee is continuing its [inquiry](#) on COVID-19 and has agreed to focus its future work on four key strands:

- Impact on businesses and workers as lockdown eases;
- Impact on young people;
- Role of the enterprise agencies and SNIB;
- Plans for economic recovery (including scrutiny of the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery report).

The Committee has also agreed that COVID-19 will be the focus of its budget scrutiny.

To help inform this work, the Committee would welcome further information from Highlands and Islands Enterprise on the following areas:

- Any updated budget and spending information you are able to provide (for example, how have your spending plans changed as a result of the crisis);
- Updated direction and guidance from the Scottish Government to Highlands and Islands Enterprise and whether HIE plans to update its strategic plan and, if so, timescales for this;
- Details of how your work has changed due to COVID-19;
- Any data on COVID-19 business support offered by Highlands and Islands Enterprise by sector, local authority, account managed status, etc.

The Committee would also welcome any other key information which you feel is important to the Committee's work on COVID-19.

The Committee will consider your response before seeking to hold an oral evidence session after the summer recess. The clerks will be in touch with a suggested date for this session.

I would be grateful to receive a response to the above points by 31 July.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Ballantyne', with a small flourish at the end.

Michelle Ballantyne MSP  
Convener