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Dear Convener,

We are writing to inform the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee of the publication of the Scottish Government's responses to three independent reports.

The Advisory Group on Economic Recovery (AGER) published their report – '*Towards a Robust, Resilient Wellbeing Economy for Scotland*' – on 22 June¹, detailing their findings in respect of their remit to provide expert advice on supporting the different regions and sectors of Scotland's economy to recover from the impacts of Covid-19. Similarly, a sub-group of the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board (ESSB) published its report – *Addressing the Labour Market Emergency: the Scottish Government's Response to the ESSB sub-group report on mitigating unemployment* – on 3 July², containing recommendations for actions and interventions to help mitigate the expected rise in unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The ESSB also published a *Review of Industry Leadership Groups* (ILGs) on 28 July.

Our responses to these reports have been published today and can be found at the links below.

[Economic Recovery Implementation Plan: The Scottish Government's response to the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery](#)

[The Scottish Government's response to the Report by the Enterprise & Skills Strategic Board sub-group on measures to mitigate the labour market impacts from COVID-19.](#)

¹ See: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/towards-robust-resilient-wellbeing-economy-scotland-report-advisory-group-economic-recovery/>

² See: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/report-enterprise-skills-strategic-board-sub-group-measures-mitigate-labour-market-impacts-covid-19/>

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The response to the AGER report is our broad endorsement of the 25 recommendations, setting out the actions we are taking across six main themes to secure a jobs-focused and socially just economic recovery. It focuses on the more immediate actions we need to take to support Scotland's economy and protect jobs to create a basis for a strong recovery. It also includes our response to the ILG Review: a broad endorsement of the recommendations and a commitment to forge stronger partnerships with a focus on recovery.

Our response to the ESSB report confirms our commitment to the themes set out in the report but does not seek to address each of the 64 actions. It sets out a range of actions we are taking now or plan to take to support individuals and businesses to address rising unemployment. This includes our recently announced funding of £100m to support people facing unemployment. We know there is an increased risk to young people of long term scarring as a result of long periods of unemployment, hence at least £50m of this will support young people directly, including through increasing investment in Developing the Young Workforce and supporting the development of the Job Guarantee which is being led by Sandy Begbie CBE.

We would be happy to discuss these reports further with the Committee, and look forward to further discourse with Members during the economic recovery debate scheduled for 12 August in the Scottish Parliament. Otherwise, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions at this time.

*Kind regards
Fiona Hyslop*

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*Yours truly
John Swinney*

JOHN SWINNEY

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