



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee

Jamie Hepburn
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and Skills

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Sent by email only

24 September 2018

Dear Minister,

Apprenticeship Levy

At last week's meeting, the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee took evidence on the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2019-20. This year, the central focus of the committee's budget scrutiny is promoting employment and encouraging fair work.

In follow-up from this meeting, the Committee has agreed to write to you to request further information on the apprenticeship levy. During discussion, questions were asked about the levy, with particular focus on how much money is raised and whether this money is additional or has displaced existing training budgets within SDS or the broader Government. The committee also seeks clarity on how the levy is being spent and how businesses can access funds from the levy in Scotland. Gordon McGuiness told the Committee that the Scottish Government is working with HMRC to gauge how much Scottish employers are paying and the Committee would welcome further information on this.

I would be grateful if you could respond by Friday 28 September if possible. Please let me know if you have any difficulties responding within this timescale. I look forward to receiving the requested information and discussing the budget with you further at the meeting on 2 October.

Kind regards

Gordon Lindhurst MSP, Convener