



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Liz Ditchburn
Director General Economy
Scottish Government

By email only:
DGeconomy@gov.scot

**Public Audit and Post-legislative
Scrutiny Committee**

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13 March 2017

Dear Liz Ditchburn,

At its meeting on 2 March the Committee considered, in private, your response to its letter of 6 December about European Structural funds.

The Committee considered that the following questions asked in its original letter were either answered partially or not answered at all—

- The number of Scottish bodies that committed errors in respect of structural funds, the amount of the error, when the error was first uncovered and confirmation that the Scottish Government formally contacted each body in question with a view to addressing the error.
- Have you calculated how many people may have been involved in spending European funding who were not provided with the appropriate auditing training?
- Have any groups of people and/ or geographical areas suffered disproportionately?
- Have any projects in Scotland had to be abandoned or downgraded as a result of the loss of structural funds?

Members also noted your offer to keep the Committee informed about activity underway to reconcile and report on the performance of the 2007-2013 programmes for the forthcoming EC deadline. Members consider that the above points could usefully be addressed in a future update. Further, the Committee would like the

update to contain more information on the time pressures that have delayed the start of some projects under the 2014-2020 programme.

Please provide a response as soon as possible and by no later than Monday 10 April. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 0131 348 5390 or by email at papls.committee@parliament.scot

Yours sincerely,

Terry Shevlin
Clerk to the Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee