

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, Chief
Secretary to the Treasury;
By email

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Tel: (0131) 348 5451
finance.constitution@parliament.scot
29 June 2020

Dear Mr Barclay,

We are writing on behalf of the Scottish Parliament's Finance and Constitution Committee, the Welsh Parliament's Finance Committee and the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Finance on the importance of timing of the UK budget.

As you are aware, the appropriate level of parliamentary scrutiny of the devolved governments' budgets has a dependence on the timing of the UK Budget - given the interplay between the block grant including the adjustments and reconciliations and the operation of the Fiscal Framework more widely. At the same time, the ongoing uncertainty arising from the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the end of the transition period following Brexit inevitably means that this year's budget process will be more challenging for the Governments of all 4 nations across the UK. Therefore, you will understand that all of our Committees believe that the opportunity for robust parliamentary scrutiny is even more essential than normal.

As a result, we would very much welcome an early indication as possible of the timing of the UK Budget and an assurance that you will give consideration to the impact of that timing on the respective budget processes across all of the devolved nations.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Crawford MSP
Convener, Finance and Constitution Committee, Scottish Parliament
Dr Steve Aiken
Chairperson, NI Assembly Committee for Finance
Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair, Finance Committee, Welsh Parliament