

Document 5

26 April 2018
13:07

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 March 2018 10:41
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Local Government Performance and Challenges Report 2018

Thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] – I used table 1.1 for both figures. Calculating them from table 1.4 gives the same answer. The 18% figure will not include Housing Benefits, but the 12% figure will include Housing Benefits. The issue I have is that I'm not keen on excluding things from this calculation without having it explained to the reader. The 14% figure has caused us problems in the past because we couldn't replicate it and couldn't explain why our figures were different, so it would be helpful if we were consistent here. Also, the logic behind excluding Housing Benefits isn't clear and if it confused us, it'll (maybe?) confuse others.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Local Government Finance Statistics
3-G (North)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 March 2018 14:27
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Local Government Performance and Challenges Report 2018

Hi [REDACTED]

In [REDACTED]'s absence. Table 1.4 gives 2,091(12%) of the total Revenue income and funding of 17.3b. In table 1.1 the 18% is basically CT divided by total funding. The other expenditure figure is higher in table 1.1

Footnote on table 4.1

2. Pre-2013-14 Council Tax figures are not comparable with later years as Council Tax Reduction (CTR) was introduced from 1 April 2013 to replace Council Tax Benefit (CTB), which was abolished by the UK Government as part of its welfare reform programme. Due to differences in the administration of the two schemes, Council Tax figures before 2013-14 include CTB, whereas figures from 2013-14 onwards do not include CTR.

Attached is a copy of the tables for ref. I have broken any links so that it is easier to see.

As far as we are concerned the figures do not include CT benefit which was later replaced as stated above.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Scottish Government
Local Government and Analytical Services Division
3G North
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH
EH6 6QQ.

Tel [REDACTED]

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Local-Government-Finance/PubScottishLGFStats>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 March 2018 10:13
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Local Government Performance and Challenges Report 2018

[REDACTED]

I note what you are trying to illustrate in Exhibit 2 but I would suggest you can only show the 3 specific revenue grants for 2017-18 on the right side of the Exhibit.

All the other funding is paid as General Revenue Grant and as such the money is not for any particular service. To illustrate, local authorities are expected to fund education, social care and all other services all of which are partially funded from their General Revenue Grant and much more is spent on these services compared with the amounts you have added. The fact is that local authorities do not need to spend the sums quoted on maintaining Teacher numbers and the Teachers Induction Scheme as long as they fulfil the agreed joint priorities. These sums represent a very small element of what local authorities spend on education in general and maintaining teacher numbers in particular. Similarly, the £30m quoted for Early Learning and Childcare is only part of the overall funding on early learning and childcare.

On the council tax points, [REDACTED] is currently on leave so I am not sure of his calculations I have copied in [REDACTED] who will try and lay his hands on [REDACTED]'s methodology.

[REDACTED]
Team Leader – Revenue and Capital
Local Government Finance
The Scottish Government
Area 3-G North
Victoria Quay
Leith
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ
Tel: [REDACTED]
e-mail: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
web address: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Government/local-government/17999/11175>

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@audit-scotland.gov.uk]
Sent: 14 March 2018 09:41
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Local Government Performance and Challenges Report 2018

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your comments.

In Exhibit 2 we are trying to show the various things that Councils need to spend some of their funding on not just the specific revenue grants. I thought I had picked out the largest of the funds for specific purposes but if there are others that you think are important for me to include I can. I can also make clear that the Pupil Equity Fund, Gaelic, and Community Justice Social Work are ring-fenced through the specific revenue grants whereas the others come from the general revenue grant.

[REDACTED] also mentioned he was unhappy with how we had calculated the percentage of income that council tax represents – we use 14% (total income excluding housing benefit) and he said you use either 18%: CT as a % of funding, or 12%: CT as a % of gross expenditure. Do these both contain housing benefit? Would you be able to send me the working so that I can match them to the figures I have and be sure I understand them.

I am around all day today and tomorrow if a phonecall is easier – [REDACTED]. We need to get the draft to our comms team to start the publishing process on Monday so will not be able to make any changes after Friday.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot]
Sent: 13 March 2018 14:04
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Local Government Performance and Challenges Report 2018

Hi [REDACTED]

I understand that you'd sought comments from my colleague [REDACTED] about the latest version of the forthcoming LG Overview Report – thanks for that.

He's currently on leave, but asked me to pass on comments from [REDACTED] about the Report's Exhibit 2. Those comments are as follows:

- the updated 2017-18 funding figures are £9,651m for total Scottish Government funding and £6,774m for General Revenue Grant.
- As regards the "Funds for Specific Purposes", we remain unsure why those mentioned in Exhibit 2 have been singled out. If the aim is to list the Specific Revenue Grants, then as previously advised this should only include Pupil Equity Fund, Gaelic, and Community Justice Social Work (which equals the £211m in the funding headline). The others mentioned in Exhibit 2 are included in the settlement for specific purposes but are not ring-fenced - the settlement includes a large number of other such monies so we think it would be wrong to single out just the ones currently mentioned.

I hope this is helpful. If you have any queries please contact [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]e
Relationships and Policy Unit
Local Government and Analytical Services Division
Scottish Government
Area 3G North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
[REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadaichte a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a feigheil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil. Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

