

## 005a

Context:

Martin Kennedy, President of the NFU Scotland, has requested a meeting with the Deputy First Minister to discuss the return of BEW funding to the Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands portfolio.

As part of the Emergency Budget Review £33 million of Bew funding due to be received by the Rural Affairs portfolio was deferred. At this time the previous Deputy First Minister, John Swinney MSP, publicly committed to this funding being returned at a later date.

This was reiterated in a response to Oliver Mundell MSP's Parliamentary Question S6W-16700. A copy of the response is included in the background information below

[Redacted text]

## Background

Oliver Mundell PQ

Question reference: S6W-16700

Asked by: Oliver Mundell, MSP for Dumfriesshire, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

Date lodged: 6 April 2023

Current status: Answered by Shona Robison on 17 April 2023

### Question

To ask the Scottish Government when the deferred £33 million of ring-fenced agriculture funds will be returned to the budget for the portfolio covering rural affairs and islands.

### Answer

The cost crisis created an unprecedented challenge with the Scottish Government exploring all financial options to support the emergency response to help people and businesses through its Emergency Budget Review (EBR) in 2022.

The then DFM and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy, John Swinney MSP, publicly confirmed to Parliament in his EBR statement that the deferred budget of £33 million would be returned to the sector in future years, ensuring this money is ultimately used to deliver on Scotland's rural priorities.

Future budgets are set through the annual parliamentary Budget Bill process and the appropriate profile for returning this funding will be considered as part of the 2024-25 process.

Extract from Emergency Budget Review:

#### 2022-23 Financial Management

Work has been undertaken across the Scottish Government to generate savings options to support the achievement of a balanced budget and enable consideration of further cost of living initiatives including enhancing public sector pay. The initial EBR work, coupled with robust in-year financial management practices, enabled the package of £560 million of savings which were announced to Parliament on 7 September 2022. These include (full list included at Annex B):

Spend reductions of £53 million in the budget for employability schemes

Increased in-year funding of up to £56 million generated by the ScotWind clearing process – funding that will be reinstated in future years and used, as planned, to invest in addressing the climate and biodiversity crises

Spending reductions of £33 million through deferral of ring-fenced agriculture funds, to be returned in future years, and whilst not impacting eligibility, taking a risk based forecasting approach based on demand, a reduction of £37 million in concessionary fares spend

005b

Dear Deputy First Minister,

I write regarding the £33 million of Bew Review funding that was deferred in the Scottish Government's Emergency Budget in 2022.

I welcomed confirmation in your answer to Parliamentary Question S6W-16700, published on 17 April 2023, that the money will be ultimately used to deliver on Scotland's rural priorities. This echoes assurances we received from the former Deputy First Minister, John Swinney MSP, that the deferred £33 million of Bew Review funding would return to the Rural Affairs and Islands portfolio.

Your answer also explained that future budgets are set through the annual parliamentary Budget Bill and that the appropriate profile for returning this funding will be considered as part of the 2024-25 process.

I would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you, as the new Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, so we can discuss the return of the £33 million. I can also provide details on the importance of funding going forward and how our sector delivers not just on food production, but also on climate change, biodiversity and is an essential part of rural communities.

It is a critical time for agriculture. Funding from HM Treasury is committed until the end of this UK parliament. With agricultural policy in both Scotland currently undergoing significant changes, there are clearly issues with funding going forward – as we often discuss with your Cabinet colleague Mairi Gougeon MSP. This is causing great concern for our sector. Food security and production are such key issues currently, and this uncertainty surrounding future funding is not helping the situation.

Without government investment, the majority of farmers in Scotland would find it impossible to generate sufficient funds to reinvest and maintain their competitiveness. This would negatively impact consumers, food production and rural communities. It would also significantly undermine Scotland's aspirations to grow the food and drinks sector, as the major plank of green economic growth, whilst sustainably tackling climate change, nature restoration and rural depopulation.

It would therefore be useful to discuss this with you and your team at the earliest opportunity so we can help to secure the future of the farming sector, not just for our members but the thousands of jobs and businesses, located within rural communities across Scotland, that are supported by our sector.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Kennedy  
President  
NFU Scotland

Path to Balance Bilateral with the Deputy First Minister

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]	<i>[Redacted text]</i>

[Redacted text]

## Additional Portfolio Specific Information

### Ring fenced funding

The path to balance relied on difficult choices, with stakeholders already sensitive to the £33m ring-fenced funds put forward by RAI for the Emergency Budget Review in 2022-23 that were not returned in financial year 2023-24. The previous DFM confirmed that £33m of ring-fenced funding savings would be returned to the portfolio in future financial years. This has been confirmed by DFM in a subsequent PQ.

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

<b>Engagement Title</b>	DFM / NFU Scotland
<b>Engagement Type</b>	Meeting
<b>Date/Time</b>	15 June 2023, 11:00 - 11:30
<b>Venue</b>	Deputy First Minister's Office, Scottish Parliament
<b>Background/Purpose</b>	<p>To provide assurance to National Farmers Union Scotland over the return of the ringfenced £33 million and of future funding to the sector and rural communities.</p> <p>The key message is the lack of clarity from UK Government on future budgets and the issues this creates for budget setting and policy development.</p>
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>National Farmers Union Scotland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Martin Kennedy, President</li> <li>▪ Jonnie Hall, Director of Policy and General Manager</li> <li>▪ Beatrice Morrice, Political Affairs Manager</li> </ul>
<b>Official Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ George Burgess, Director, Agriculture and Rural Economy</li> <li>▪ [Redacted text], Head of Agriculture Support Policy Development Unit</li> <li>▪ [Redacted text], Head of ARE Financial Management and Controls, Agriculture and Rural Economy</li> </ul>
<b>Media Handling</b>	National Farmers Union Scotland is likely to undertake social media activity to inform their members of the meeting taking place and of their key asks.
<b>Greeting party and specific meeting point on arrival (if event is at a non SG building)</b>	N/A

**[Redacted text]**DFM MEETING WITH NFU SCOTLAND, 13 JUNE 2023

## OUTLINE AGENDA

National Farmers Union (NFU) Scotland aim to speak about:

The return of the ringfenced £33 million.

The importance of future funding to the sector and rural communities.

Martin and Jonnie may touch on the following areas in relation to funding:

Lobbying UK Government on future funding.

A Scottish Government commitment to multi-annual and ring-fenced funding.

How future budgets should be utilised within the new support framework.

[Redacted text]DFM MEETING WITH NFU SCOTLAND, 13 JUNE 2023

## SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Top lines:

### Deferred £33m for Agriculture as part of the Emergency Budget Review

**As the then Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, confirmed in his Emergency Budget Review Statement (2<sup>nd</sup> November) the £33m of funding will be returned in full to the sector.**

[Redacted text]

NFU Scotland have sought confirmation that the deferred £33m agriculture funding would return to the Rural Affairs and Islands portfolio, to provide reassurance to the sector. Their letter to you references your answer to the following PQ:

PQ [S6W-16700](#): To ask the Scottish Government when the deferred £33m of ring-fenced agriculture funds will be returned to the budget for the portfolio covering rural affairs and islands [Oliver Mundell].

On 17 April 2023 your answer stated:

“The cost crisis created an unprecedented challenge with the Scottish Government exploring all financial options to support the emergency response to help people and businesses through its Emergency Budget Review (EBR) in 2022.

The then DFM and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy, John Swinney MSP, publicly confirmed to Parliament in his EBR statement that the deferred budget of £33m would be returned to the sector in future years, ensuring this money is ultimately used to deliver on Scotland's rural priorities.

Future budgets are set through the annual parliamentary Budget Bill process and the appropriate profile for returning this funding will be considered as part of the 2024-25 process.”

In response to questioning at RAI Committee on 31 May 2023, Cab Sec RALRI stated:

“I do not have a definitive timeline yet, but I will continue discussions with the Deputy First Minister about when that money will be returned to the portfolio.

I also want to be absolutely clear that that money is ring fenced. It must come back to the portfolio and cannot be spent in other areas. It will be returned to the portfolio, but the detail of the timeline is still to be determined.”

## Q&A

Q. When will the money be returned to those who need it?



Future budgets are set through the annual parliamentary Budget Bill process and the appropriate profile for returning this funding will be considered as part of the 2024-25 process.

Q. Can you guarantee that no more ring-fenced money will be taken from the agriculture budget?

Our current financial situation is amongst the most challenging since devolution.

As I've previously stated, I will not back away from the tough choices for the decisions I can control to manage the overall Scottish Budget.

We will look to carefully manage our limited resources, and if further savings emerge from ring-fenced funds - as with the £33m, they will be returned in the future to support agriculture.

[Redacted text]

Q. Can you outline how ring-fenced funding can be spent?

[Redacted text]**Q. What will future support look like?**

[Redacted text]

**Q. Does everything change in 2025?**

[Redacted text]

**Q. When will current schemes end?**

[Redacted text]

**Q. What support is available to help the sector prepare?**

[Redacted text]

Bew/Convergence 2023-24

Q. Why is there is no convergence funding in 2023-24?

[Redacted text]Q. But this represents a cut to the funding overall?

[Redacted text]Background ARE General Budget (23-24) Information

[Redacted text]

## Future funding guarantees

[Redacted text]

In response to questioning at RAI Committee on 31 May 2023, Cab Sec RALRI stated:

“We do not have clarity about funding beyond 2025, which makes it really difficult to plan. We have moved from a scheme that worked to seven-year programmes through the common agricultural policy, and, right now, we are working on yearly budget allocations, which makes it really difficult to plan for the future.”

“When the Bew review was undertaken, there was a commitment in it that there would be further discussion about future allocations and how they would work. We have continued to pursue that with the UK Government to try to discuss what future funding will look like. However, despite pressing for them, those discussions have never taken place.”

[Redacted text]

Top lines:

[Redacted text][Redacted text]Allocation of future budgets within the future support framework tiers

[Redacted text]

In response to questioning at RAI Committee on 31 May 2023, Cab Sec RALRI stated:

“I will go back to your question relating to NFU Scotland’s calls and the budget splits. The discussions are on-going. I know that that is the NFUS’s position, but other bodies have different views on that. We have committed to a policy of co-development in relation to how we develop our agriculture policy, so we will continue to have those discussions with the agriculture reform implementation oversight board, the NFUS and other stakeholders before setting out a position.”

Top lines:

[Redacted text]

*Draft response – still to be cleared*

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]



Rural Centre - West Mains, Ingliston  
Newbridge, Midlothian EH28 8LT  
E [nfuscotland@nfus.org.uk](mailto:nfuscotland@nfus.org.uk)  
T 0131 472 4000  
[www.nfus.org.uk](http://www.nfus.org.uk)

[Redacted text] 29 April 2023

Shona Robison MSP  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance  
Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Dear Deputy First Minister,

I write regarding the £33 million of Bew Review funding that was deferred in the Scottish Government's Emergency Budget in 2022.

I welcomed confirmation in your answer to Parliamentary Question S6W-16700, published on 17 April 2023, that the money will be ultimately used to deliver on Scotland's rural priorities. This echoes assurances we received from the former Deputy First Minister, John Swinney MSP, that the deferred £33 million of Bew Review funding would return to the Rural Affairs and Islands portfolio.

Your answer also explained that future budgets are set through the annual parliamentary Budget Bill and that the appropriate profile for returning this funding will be considered as part of the 2024-25 process.

I would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you, as the new Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, so we can discuss the return of the £33 million. I can also provide details on the importance of funding going forward and how our sector delivers not just on food production, but also on climate change, biodiversity and is an essential part of rural communities.

It is a critical time for agriculture. Funding from HM Treasury is committed until the end of this UK parliament. With agricultural policy in both Scotland currently undergoing significant changes, there are clearly issues with funding going forward – as we often discuss with your Cabinet colleague Mairi Gougeon MSP. This is causing great concern for our sector. Food security and production are such key issues currently, and this uncertainty surrounding future funding is not helping the situation.

Without government investment, the majority of farmers in Scotland would find it impossible to generate sufficient funds to reinvest and maintain their competitiveness. This would negatively impact consumers, food production and rural communities. It would also significantly undermine Scotland's aspirations to grow the food and drinks sector, as the major plank of green economic growth, whilst sustainably tackling climate change, nature restoration and rural depopulation.

It would therefore be useful to discuss this with you and your team at the earliest opportunity so we can help to secure the future of the farming sector, not just for our members but the thousands of jobs and businesses, located within rural communities across Scotland, that are supported by our sector.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Kennedy  
President  
NFU Scotland

**054a**

**Note of Meeting with Deputy First Minister (DFM) / National Farmer's Union Scotland (NFUS) held on 15 June 2023 at 11:15**

Venue: Deputy First Minister's Office, Scottish Parliament

Attendees: Shona Robison, Deputy First Minister (DFM) and Cabinet Secretary for Finance  
Martin Kennedy, President (NFUS)  
Jonnie Hall, Director of Policy & General Manager (NFUS)  
Beatrice Morrice, Political Affairs Manager (NFUS)

Officials: George Burgess, Director, Agriculture and Rural Economy (ARE)  
[Redacted text], Head of Agriculture Support Policy Development Unit  
[Redacted text], Head of ARE Financial Management and Controls

**Meeting to discuss the return of the ringfenced £33 million and of future funding to the sector and rural communities**

DFM welcomed NFUS to the meeting. In addition to their concerns around the £33m of ring-fenced funding, she indicated that the Rural Development Plan may be another possible area of interest to NFUS.

It was agreed that this would not be a one-off meeting, with there being a need to maintain ongoing dialogue. Martin agreed this would be helpful, so as to better understand what was coming down the track, where industry needed certainty around ring-fenced funding.

Jonnie mentioned that NFUS members had been directing their concerns to NFUS rather than the Scottish Government, around the return of the £33m ring-fenced funding to the ARE Budget. On the potential for repurposing these funds within the agriculture budget, Jonnie highlighted some options, such as providing more resilience to address water issues. Given current weather conditions, water levels were very low and so consideration to future proof water storage would be important. Jonnie went on to explain that, as a Board, NFUS would wish to take a realistic view ahead of firming up proposals for committing these ring-fenced funds. It was noted that although these ring-fenced funds were a resource budget, it may be more beneficial to acquire capital.

Further discussion took place around the Agricultural Transformation Fund, which was a capital budget that in NFUS's view didn't always achieve its target and that further engagement to discuss investment across the agricultural sector to help build resilience, would be welcomed.

DFM provided reassurance that the £33m of ring-fenced funding would be returned and that options should be discussed with the Cabinet Secretary for RALRI, to agree the purpose and profile of these funds.

DFM also mentioned that she would shortly be attending a 4 nations intergovernmental finance meeting. This would be an opportunity to put down a marker for seeking renewed engagement with the UK Government, to seek discussions around agriculture funding beyond 2024-25.

Jonnie confirmed his satisfaction of DFM seeking further clarity on funding beyond 2024-25 with UK Government, highlighting how difficult it had been for NFUS to pin down HMT.

DFM commented that it was good to have common ground and welcomed further discussions with the Cabinet Secretary for RALRI and George. She was keen to meet again and said she would likely see Martin and Johnnie at the Royal Highland Show.

Emails

**041- Email 12/07/23**

**[Redacted text]**

Afternoon

I would add a closing line to cover the funding ask:

*“Future budgets are set through the annual parliamentary Budget Bill process and the appropriate profile for returning ring-fenced funding will be considered as part of the 2024-25 process.”*

[Redacted text]

**[Redacted text]** | CAP Replacement and SRDP | Agriculture Policy Division | Scottish Government |  
✉ email: [Redacted text]@gov.scot

**[Redacted text]**

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

**012- Email 06/06/23**

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 06 June 2023 16:46  
**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted text]  
**Subject:** RE: NFUS Briefing - Budget

Thank you [Redacted text] – Ill come back to you if I need anything else.

Kind regards  
[Redacted text]  
Rural Affairs and Islands – Briefing Co-ordination Lead |  
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate |

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023 4:27 PM  
**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted text]  
**Subject:** NFUS Briefing - Budget

Hi [Redacted text]

As discussed on Teams, please find below lines on the budget which can be includes in your briefing for NFUS.

**[Redacted text]**  
**[Redacted text]DEFERRED £33M FOR AGRICULTURE**  
**As the then Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, confirmed in his Emergency Budget Review Statement the £33 million of funding will be returned in full to the sector**

Future budgets are set through the annual parliamentary Budget Bill process and the appropriate profile for returning this funding will be considered as part of the 2024-25 process.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can help with.

Kind regards,  
[Redacted text]

Budget Co-Ordinator  
Scottish Budget Unit



**Scottish Government**  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ



**051- Email 02/06/23**

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 02 June 2023 09:57  
**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: NFUS Letter

So you have it all together

[redacted text]

**[Redacted text]**

Rural Affairs and Islands – Briefing Co-ordination Lead |  
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate |

**From:** [Redacted text]  
**Sent:** 02 June 2023 09:28  
**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** NFUS Letter

Good morning

For information, please see attached NFUS letter to DFM – the letter also refers to a PQ details below:

**PQ - S6W-16700 – [Redacted text] –**

*To ask the Scottish Government when the deferred £33 million of ring-fenced agriculture funds will be returned to the budget for the portfolio covering rural affairs and islands.*

**Response – [Redacted text]**

*The cost crisis created an unprecedented challenge with the Scottish Government exploring all financial options to support the emergency response to help people and businesses through its Emergency Budget Review (EBR) in 2022.*

*The then DFM and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy, John Swinney MSP, publicly confirmed to Parliament in his EBR statement that the deferred budget of £33 million would be returned to the sector in future years, ensuring this money is ultimately used to deliver on Scotland's rural priorities.*

*Future budgets are set through the annual parliamentary Budget Bill process and the appropriate profile for returning this funding will be considered as part of the 2024-25 process.*

As mentioned, the £33m was also discussed at Committee on Wednesday, I'll send detail from the transcript when it's available (normally today at some point).

Kind regards

[Redacted text]

Rural Affairs and Islands – Briefing Co-ordination Lead |

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate |

[Redacted text]

**011- Email 19/05/23**

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 19 May 2023 17:02

**To:** Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]

**Cc:** Director of Budget and Public Spending

<Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; John Kerr <John.Kerr@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: RE: £33m agriculture funding

I agree it makes sense for Kate to cover this for spads (thanks Kate)

**Callum McCaig**

Special Adviser to the First Minister

[Redacted text]

*Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot) for information*

**From:** Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 19 May 2023 16:18

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]

**Cc:** Director of Budget and Public Spending

<Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; John Kerr <John.Kerr@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: RE: £33m agriculture funding

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

Kate

Kate Higgins

Special Adviser to the First Minister

Rural Affairs and Islands

[Redacted text]

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
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**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot <[Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

**Sent:** 18 May 2023 11:53

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]

**Cc:** Director of Budget and Public Spending <Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; John Kerr <John.Kerr@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: RE: £33m agriculture funding

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text] – please let Ms Gougeon aware.

Thanks

[Redacted text]

**Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP**

**The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

T[Redacted text] | Email: [DFMCSF@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSF@gov.scot)

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**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot <[Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

**Sent:** 18 May 2023 10:48

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]

**Cc:** Director of Budget and Public Spending <Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy

<DirectorARE@gov.scot>; John Kerr <John.Kerr@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: £33m agriculture funding

Copying in ARE officials.

**[Redacted text] | Deputy Private Secretary  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands – Mairi Gougeon  
MSP**

☎: [Redacted text]

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Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

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**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance  
**Sent:** 17 May 2023 11:07  
**To:** [Redacted text]  
**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Director of Budget and Public Spending <Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: £33m agriculture funding

[Redacted text]

Regarding MiCase 202300354622, [Redacted text]

Copying in Ms Gougeon's PO for awareness

[Redacted text]

**Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP**

**The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

**T:** [Redacted text] | **Email:** DFMCSF@gov.scot

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**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 12 May 2023 17:30  
**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Director of Budget and Public Spending  
<Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]  
**Subject:** RE: RE: £33m agriculture funding

Hi [Redacted text]

Please see attached advice.

Thanks

[Redacted text] | Deputy Director | Budget, Pay and Pensions | Directorate for Budget and Public Spending | The Scottish Government | Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Tel: [Redacted text]

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance  
**Sent:** 12 May 2023 15:25  
**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Director of Budget and Public Spending  
<Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]  
**Subject:** RE: £33m agriculture funding

[Redacted text]

Yesterday after Decision Time, Jim Fairlie MSP approached DFM questioning her about the deferred £33m funding for agriculture saying that he had been told that it was not being returned after all.

Grateful for some further background on this funding and if payment is to be returned in full, as confirmed by Mr Swinney in the Emergency Budget Review Statement, can you indicate when this is likely to happen. Grateful if this could be sent ideally **by COP today**.

Much appreciated

[Redacted text]

**Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP**  
**The Scottish Government**  
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
**T:** [Redacted text] | **Email:** DFMCSF@gov.scot

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**050- Email 18/05/23**

**From:** Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 18 May 2023 15:42  
**To:** [Redacted text]  
**Cc:** [Redacted text]  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from NFU Scotland

Fine [Redacted text]

Kate Higgins  
Special Advisor to the First Minister  
Rural Affairs and Islands  
[Redacted text]

Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
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**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 18 May 2023 15:27  
**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from NFU Scotland

Hi all

Suggested initial response to the NFU letter below, can you let me know if there's anything you would like added in. Intention is to send up to DFM by **COP today**.

Thanks

[Redacted text]

Dear Mr Kennedy

Thank you for letter of 28 April 2023.

The Scottish Government is committed to agriculture in Scotland and looks forward to continuing to work constructively with NFU Scotland.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet in person to continue the positive discussions you've had with my colleague Ms Gougeon.

Please contact my Private Secretary directly to arrange timings

Yours Sincerely

Shona Robison  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 18 May 2023 12:17  
**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]John Kerr <John.Kerr@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from NFU Scotland

Adding [Redacted text]nd John to copy.

[Redacted text] would you have your team liaise with [Redacted text] on briefing for any meeting please,

[Redacted text]

[Head of Agriculture Support Policy Development Unit](#)

The Scottish Government | D Spur, Saughton House | Edinburgh EH11 3XD

[Redacted text]

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance  
**Sent:** 18 May 2023 11:59  
**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from NFU Scotland

[Redacted text]

Tying up two email trails.

To confirm DFM would like to meet the NFU so please draft an accept response and send via the MiCase system for PO to issue.

Thanks

[Redacted text]

**Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP**  
**The Scottish Government**  
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
**T:** [Redacted text] | **Email:** DFMCSF@gov.scot

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**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 16 May 2023 15:19  
**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from NFU Scotland

Hi [Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

Kind regards

[Redacted text]

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance  
**Sent:** 02 May 2023 10:56  
**To:** Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from NFU Scotland

PEU,

Please can the attached correspondence be added to MiCase as a diary case and fastracked.

Copying colleagues for awareness.

Kind regards,

[Redacted text]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP**  
**The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

T: [Redacted text] | E: [DFMCSF@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSF@gov.scot)

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**From:** [Redacted text]@nfus.org.uk>

**Sent:** 28 April 2023 17:01

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted text]@nfus.org.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Letter from NFU Scotland

Please find attached a letter from Martin Kennedy, NFU Scotland President, to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Shona Robison MSP.

Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands has been copied in.

Kind regards,

[Redacted text] | Political Affairs Manager

**NFU Scotland | Rural Centre, West Mains, Ingliston, Newbridge, EH28 8LT**

**Mobile:** 07780 607225 | **Email:** [beatrice.morrice@nfus.org.uk](mailto:beatrice.morrice@nfus.org.uk) | **Website:**

<http://www.nfus.org.uk/>

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### **005- Email 18/05/23**

Contains 005a, 005b, 005c

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

**Sent:** 18 May 2023 11:59

**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]

**Subject:** FW: Letter from NFU Scotland

[Redacted text]

Tying up two email trails.

To confirm DFM would like to meet the NFU so please draft an accept response and send via the MiCase system for PO to issue.

Thanks

[Redacted text]

**Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP**

**The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

**T:** [Redacted text] | **Email:** DFMCSF@gov.scot

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**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 16 May 2023 15:19

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]

**Subject:** RE: Letter from NFU Scotland

Hi [Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

Kind regards

[Redacted text]

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

**Sent:** 02 May 2023 10:56

**To:** Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>;

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

<CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]

**Subject:** FW: Letter from NFU Scotland

PEU,

Please can the attached correspondence be added to MiCase as a diary case and fastracked.

Copying colleagues for awareness.

Kind regards,

[Redacted text]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP**  
**The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
T: [Redacted text] | E: DFMCSF@gov.scot

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**From:** [Redacted text]@nfus.org.uk>

**Sent:** 28 April 2023 17:01

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted text]@nfus.org.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Letter from NFU Scotland

Please find attached a letter from Martin Kennedy, NFU Scotland President, to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Shona Robison MSP.

Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands has been copied in.

Kind regards,

[Redacted text] | Political Affairs Manager

**NFU Scotland | Rural Centre, West Mains, Ingliston, Newbridge, EH28 8LT**

**Mobile:** 07780 607225 | **Email:** [beatrice.morrice@nfus.org.uk](mailto:beatrice.morrice@nfus.org.uk) | **Website:**

<http://www.nfus.org.uk/>

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**033- Email 16/05/23**

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy

**Sent:** 16 May 2023 09:51

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>;

[Redacted text]@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance

<CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>;

Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>; Communications NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care <CommunicationsNHSRecoveryHealthAndSocialCare@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care <CabSecNRHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <CabSecSJ@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: FPAC Committee - Lines Requested

[Redacted text]

With apologies for the delay, please see below lines on £33m from Agriculture Budget, we have also included the NFUS release on the subject and our response. Thanks,

[Redacted text]

Director's Office Manager | Directorate for ARE | Saughton House | The Scottish Government

T: [Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

### **CAP Funding Guarantees**

**Issue:** EU Exit means we no longer have long-term certainty of funding. HM Treasury have provided yearly allocations for the current UK Parliamentary term.

**There is no funding commitment from 2025.**

**EU Exit means we no longer have long-term certainty of funding. HM Treasury have provided yearly allocations for the current UK Parliamentary term. There is no funding commitment from 2025.**

This has direct implications on the management of the current Common Agricultural Programme (CAP), including the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP), and the work underway on the Agriculture Reform Programme.

Agriculture requires future funding certainty due to its multi-annual funding commitments and long lead-in time for farmers, crofters and land managers.

The Scottish Government shares the frustration expressed by stakeholders over the lack of future budget clarity and the impact this has on the development of future policy.

**Agriculture is devolved and it is crucial that Scottish Government policies are unhindered by the threats posed by the UK Internal Market Act, Subsidy Control Regime and the lack of long-term replacement EU funding.**

The current yearly allocations from HM Treasury were imposed and there remains disagreement over the methodology used.

There is a continued lack of engagement with the Devolved Administrations on future funding and future policy development, and divergence.

The Scottish Government has been clear and consistent in our position that we expect full replacement of EU funds to ensure no detriment to Scotland's finances, and we expect the UK Government to fully respect the devolution settlement and the Scottish Parliament in any future arrangement.

**The UK Government accepted the Bew Review recommendation for collective engagement to agree the principles of future intra-UK allocations but these discussions have, to date, not taken place.**

The current situation does not reflect the potential of Scotland's land to contribute significantly to the UK's climate and nature restoration targets.

**QUOTE:** "The government will work with the devolved administrations to develop an approach to future funding allocations. Engagement between the government (HM Treasury, Defra and the Territorial Offices) and the devolved administrations will set out to agree funding after 2022, recognising that agriculture policy is and will remain devolved" – UKG response to the Bew Review

[SG response;](#)

**A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

"We acknowledge the letter from the NFUS on this important issue; the Deputy First Minister will respond formally in due course. However, we can confirm that this was uncommitted spend which will come back to the portfolio in future years.

"This government is fully committed to supporting active farming and food production with direct payments. Our Vision for Agriculture has food production at its heart and makes clear our support for farmers and crofters in providing the country with healthy nutritious food. We have also established a new Food Security Unit to analyse ongoing supply chain vulnerabilities and help to bolster industry confidence during these hugely challenging times.

"To help businesses continue to deal with financial challenges and uncertainty, we have ensured there will be a direct cash injection of over £630 million earmarked for the rural economy over the coming financial year.

"We are doing all that we can do mitigate the damage caused by the unilateral choices imposed by the UK Government following Brexit. We have been clear that we expect full replacement of EU funds to ensure no detriment to Scotland's finances and Scottish Ministers continue to call upon the Secretary of State for Defra to fulfil the UK Government's commitment to collectively discuss future allocations for agriculture support, so we can fully protect our rural sector."

[NFUS press release;](#)

## **NFU SCOTLAND WRITES TO DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER TO REQUEST MEETING ON FUTURE FUNDING**

**Clarification on timetable to return deferred funding to rural portfolio sought.**

NFU Scotland has written to Scotland's newly appointed Deputy First Minister and Finance Secretary, Shona Robison MSP, seeking confirmation that £33 million deferred from the agricultural budget last year will be returned.

In the Scottish Government's Emergency Budget Review (EBR) in 2022 to support people and businesses through the unprecedented cost crisis, £33 million of funding awarded to Scotland as part of the 2019 Bew Review into the fair allocation of agricultural support in the UK was deferred.

The then Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy, John Swinney MSP, publicly confirmed to Scottish Parliament in his EBR statement that the deferred budget of £33 million would be returned to the sector in future years, ensuring this money is ultimately used to deliver on Scotland's rural priorities. Future budgets are set through the annual parliamentary Budget Bill process and the appropriate profile for returning this funding will be considered as part of the 2024-25 process. In response to a Parliamentary Question last month, Deputy First Minister

and Finance Secretary Shona Robison MSP confirmed that the money will be used to invest in Scotland's rural priorities.

The Union has requested to meet with the Deputy First Minister and her team to discuss the rural affairs budget and how Scotland's farmers and crofters continue to use that public support to deliver on food security, reducing emissions, nature restoration, supporting rural communities and growing the rural economy.

Commenting on the letter to the Deputy First Minister, NFU Scotland President Martin Kennedy said: "It is a critical and decisive time for Scotland's farmers and crofters. Agricultural policy in both Scotland and the rest of the UK is currently undergoing significant change. That debate is being undertaken against the backdrop of a cost-of-living crisis, and there are clearly critical issues around funding going forward.

"When food security and future production are such key issues for the nation, this is causing great concern for our sector. In our Intentions Survey conducted in January, almost two-thirds of farmers and crofters identified uncertainty around future agricultural policy and funding as the most significant threat to their businesses.

"Funding from HM Treasury for the sector is only committed until the end of this UK parliament so clarity from the Scottish Government on future support, including the return of the Bew funding, would provide welcome reassurance.

"Without government investment, many farmers and crofters in Scotland would find it impossible to generate sufficient funds to reinvest and maintain their competitiveness and that has implications for consumers, food production and rural communities.

"It would also significantly undermine Scotland's aspirations to grow our iconic food and drinks sector, as the major plank of green economic growth, whilst sustainably tackling climate change, nature restoration and rural depopulation.

"At NFU Scotland, we want to secure the future of farming and crofting, not just for our members but the thousands of jobs and businesses, located within rural communities across Scotland, which are supported by our sector. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with the Deputy First Minister how we believe Scottish Government can support that ambition." Ends.

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

**Sent:** 16 May 2023 08:29

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance

<CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>;

Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>;

[Redacted text]gov.scot>; Communications NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsNHSRecoveryHealthAndSocialCare@gov.scot>; DG Communities

<DGCommunities@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>;

[Redacted text]@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Corporate

<dgcorporate@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural

Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for

NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care <CabSecNRHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet

Secretary for Social Justice <CabSecSJ@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: FPAC Committee - Lines Requested

All,

In addition to the below requested line, DFM would also be grateful for further lines summarised below.

To summarise, DFM would like a line on the following in **advance of 9am**:

[Redacted text]

£33m from agriculture budget

Grateful for confirmation this has been picked up. Please add in appropriate colleagues.

Kind regards,

[Redacted text]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP**

**The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

T: [Redacted text] | E: [DFMCSF@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSF@gov.scot)

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[Redacted text]

### **032- Email 16/05/23**

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy

**Sent:** 16 May 2023 09:11

**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: FPAC Committee - Lines Requested

[Redacted text]

Could you pick up the below?

Kate has also asked that the DFM have sight of the letter from NFUS on £33m Bew Money.

Many thanks,

[Redacted text]

Director's Office Manager | Directorate for ARE | Saughton House | The Scottish Government

T: [Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 16 May 2023 08:51

**To:** Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <[DirectorARE@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorARE@gov.scot)>; [Redacted text] Kerr J (John) <[John.Kerr@gov.scot](mailto:John.Kerr@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FW: FPAC Committee - Lines Requested

Morning all,

Looking at the copy list I'm not sure if this went to anyone on our side (except George, who will be phone-free in No.10 by now) who can answer the '£33m from agriculture budget' point. It doesn't mean anything to me but perhaps it does to you?

Thanks  
Alice

**Alice Biggins**

**Deputy Director – Food & Drink | Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate**

B1 Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Road, Edinburgh EH11 3XD

Mobile: [Redacted text] | Email: [DeputyDirectorofFood&Drink@gov.scot](mailto:DeputyDirectorofFood&Drink@gov.scot)

[Redacted text]



**004- Email 12/05/23**

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 12 May 2023 16:34  
**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: RE: £33m agriculture funding

Hi [Redacted text]

I've had some discussions with Kate Higgins over the course of yesterday/today as this links to the letter from the NFU requesting a meeting around the £33m deferred funding.

I've attached our advice as well as the background note on this. [Redacted text]

I'll let you know if I hear from SpAds before the end of the day.

Thanks

[Redacted text]

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 12 May 2023 15:50  
**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: RE: £33m agriculture funding  
**Importance:** High

Hi [Redacted text]

I know that the lines had come from a PQ, but grateful if you can advise on the query below from PO.

Thanks,  
[Redacted text]



Budget Co-Ordinator  
Scottish Budget Unit



**Scottish Government**  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

**From:** MacDougall J (Jamie) <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 12 May 2023 15:46  
**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: RE: £33m agriculture funding  
**Importance:** High

[Redacted text]

Are you able to get me some info on this so I can go back to DFM?

Jamie

**Jamie MacDougall** | Deputy Director | Budget, Pay and Pensions | Directorate for Budget and Public Spending | The Scottish Government | Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Tel: [Redacted text]

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance  
**Sent:** 12 May 2023 15:25  
**To:** MacDougall J (Jamie) <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Director of Budget and Public Spending <Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: £33m agriculture funding

Jamie,

Yesterday after Decision Time, Jim Fairlie MSP approached DFM questioning her about the deferred £33m funding for agriculture saying that he had been told that it was not being returned after all.

Grateful for some further background on this funding and if payment is to be returned in full, as confirmed by Mr Swinney in the Emergency Budget Review Statement, can you indicate when this is likely to happen. Grateful if this could be sent ideally **by COP today**.

Much appreciated

[Redacted text]

**Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP**  
**The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
T: [Redacted text] | **Email:** DFMCSF@gov.scot

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**028- Email 11/05/23**

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 11 May 2023 15:39

**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Contribution Request - 2023-24 Scottish Budget FMQ - Deadline 10am Monday 15 May

Hi [Redacted text]

Yes, happy with that and for you to confirm with [Redacted text]

Thanks

[Redacted text]

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 11 May 2023 15:19

**To:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: Contribution Request - 2023-24 Scottish Budget FMQ - Deadline 10am Monday 15 May

Hi there

Please see below – we have a line added at the end of the briefing re the £33m (probably due to the heightened stakeholder interest recently).

I'm not sure there's much we can add to it – so happy to go back to [Redacted text] to advise we're content if you are?

Many thanks

[Redacted text]

Rural Affairs and Islands – Briefing Co-ordination Lead |  
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate |

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 11 May 2023 15:13  
**To:** [Redacted text]  
**Subject:** Contribution Request - 2023-24 Scottish Budget FMQ - Deadline 10am Monday 15 May

Hi all,

Please find below the updated 2023-24 Scottish Budget FMQ. Grateful if you can review and confirm content or suggest changes as required.

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[REDACTED TEXT]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
£33m agriculture funding	[Redacted text]

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,  
[Redacted text]

Budget Co-Ordinator  
Scottish Budget Unit



**Scottish Government**  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

**058- Email 09/05/23**

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance  
**Sent:** 09 May 2023 11:46  
**To:** Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Minister for Community Wealth & Public Finance <MinisterCWPF@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from NFU Scotland

Kate,

DFM has had sight of your comments below and was content.

This correspondence is on the MiCase system and is being led by [Redacted text] I spoke to [Redacted text] briefly last week who said he would check in with yourself prior to sending a draft for Ministerial clearance.

Thanks,

[Redacted text]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP**

**The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

T: [Redacted text] | E: [DFMCSF@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSF@gov.scot)

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**From:** Kate Higgins <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 01 May 2023 10:38

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <[DFMCSF@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSF@gov.scot)>; Minister for Community Wealth & Public Finance <[MinisterCWPF@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCWPF@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <[CabSecRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecRALRI@gov.scot)>; [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: Letter from NFU Scotland

[Redacted text]

Kate Higgins

Special Advisor to the First Minister

Rural Affairs and Islands

07790 363 195

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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**From**[Redacted text]@nfus.org.uk>

**Sent:** 28 April 2023 17:01

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <[DFMCSF@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSF@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** [Redacted text]@nfus.org.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <[CabSecRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecRALRI@gov.scot)>; Kate Higgins <[Kate.Higgins@gov.scot](mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Letter from NFU Scotland

Please find attached a letter from Martin Kennedy, NFU Scotland President, to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Shona Robison MSP.

Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands has been copied in.

Kind regards,

[Redacted text] Political Affairs Manager

**NFU Scotland | Rural Centre, West Mains, Ingliston, Newbridge, EH28 8LT**

**Mobile: 07780 607225 | Email: [beatrice.morrice@nfus.org.uk](mailto:beatrice.morrice@nfus.org.uk) | Website:**

<http://www.nfus.org.uk/>

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### **001- Email 04/05/23**

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 04 May 2023 13:51

**To:** [Redacted text]

**Cc:** [Redacted text]

**Subject:** RE: Contribution Request - 2023-24 Scottish Budget FMQ - Deadline 10am Tuesday 9 May

Hi [Redacted text]

On the £33m, we had a PQ from Oliver Mundell on this which issue was assigned to [Redacted text] – [Redacted text]

[Redacted text] – do you think that's a reasonable approach? And if so can that response be put in?

Regards

[Redacted text]

*Head of Strategy & Engagement for Portfolio Budget & Spending Review*

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate: Rural Payments and Inspections  
Division | C1 Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11  
3XD | [Redacted text]

**From:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 04 May 2023 13:45

**To**[Redacted text]

**Cc:** Robertson FR (Fiona) <Fiona.Robertson@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Contribution Request - 2023-24 Scottish Budget FMQ - Deadline 10am  
Tuesday 9 May

Hi all,

Apologies, grateful for returns by **10am Tuesday 9 May**.

Thanks!

[Redacted text]

Budget Co-Ordinator  
Scottish Budget Unit

**From:** [Redacted text]

**Sent:** 04 May 2023 13:44

**To:** [Redacted text]

**Cc:** [Redacted text]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Contribution Request - 2023-24 Scottish Budget FMQ - Deadline 10am  
Tuesday 8 May

Hi all,

Please find below the 2023-24 Scottish Budget FMQ. Grateful if you can review and confirm content or suggest changes as required.

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[REDACTED TEXT]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
[Redacted text]	[Redacted text]
Grateful for lines on - Scottish farming community demand sight of £33m funding for agriculture sector after it was 'deferred' amid cost- of-living budget (msn.com)	[Redacted text]

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

[Redacted text]

Budget Co-Ordinator  
Scottish Budget Unit



**Scottish Government**  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ