



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

(by email [dfmcsf@gov.scot](mailto:dfmcsf@gov.scot))

**CONSEQUENTIALS TO  
SUPPORT SWIMMING  
POOLS**

Gregory Colgan– Chief Executive

Chief Executive's Department  
Floor 2  
21 City Square  
DUNDEE  
DD1 3BY

Tel: 01382 434000 Email:  
[gregory.colgan@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:gregory.colgan@dundee.gov.uk)

Our Ref: GC/KAS

Your Ref:

Date: 28 December  
2023

Dear Deputy First Minister

At its meeting on Monday 20 November 2023, Dundee City Council's Fair Work, Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee a question was raised by one of our elected members regarding whether any funding had been received from the Scottish Government following the announcement that funding had been made available by the UK Government to support cost pressures in relation to the running swimming pools.

I would be grateful if you can confirm whether the Scottish Government has received any Barnett consequential funding in 2023/24 in relation to the UK Governments allocation of £63m to leisure centres with swimming pools in England and if so will funding be distributed to local authorities.

I look forward to hearing your response which I will share with the Council's elected members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Colgan', written in a cursive style.

GREGORY COLGAN  
Chief Executive

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## Scottish Government Response

T : 0300 244 4000

E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Gregory Colgan

**[Redacted]**@dundeecity.gov.uk

Our Reference: 202400392000

Your Reference: Letter re Consequentials to Support Swimming Pools

26 January 2024

Dear Gregory Colgan,

Thank you for your letter regarding consequentials to support swimming pools.

The Scottish Government places great importance on sports and leisure facilities, they are vital in supporting the physical and mental health of the nation and we recognise the significance of these facilities for the overall wellbeing of those who use them regularly.

The financial package, announced in March 2023 by the UK Government to support swimming pools in England resulted in consequentials being added to the overall Scottish block. However, as confirmed in the Autumn Budget Revision on 28 September 2023, all consequentials available from the UK Spring Budget have now been allocated, with the Local Government Settlement increasing by £254 million accordingly. This contrasts with the £6 million of consequentials allocated at the Spring Budget for swimming pools.

We are fully aware of the challenging financial circumstances facing Local Authorities in the maintenance and operation of sports and leisure clubs. However as independent corporate bodies it is for local authorities to manage their own leisure facilities, on the basis of local needs and priorities.

The Scottish Government has been repeatedly clear that we are facing the most challenging budget settlement since devolution.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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Despite this, the Local Government

Settlement's share of the discretionary Scottish Budget has increased, highlighting the importance the Scottish Government places on our local services. The 2024-25 budget includes record funding of more than £14 billion for local government, a real-terms increase of 4.3% compared with 2023-24 – including £144 million to enable local authorities to freeze Council Tax rates at their current levels.



In 2024-25, Dundee City Council will receive almost £377.2 million to fund local services, which equates to an extra £20.1 million to support vital day to day services or an additional 5.6% compared to 2023-24. In addition all Councils will receive their fair share of the currently undistributed sum of £365.3 million.

It is vital that all partners at a local level work together to explore all avenues and approaches to ensure, where possible, that local clubs and communities have access to sport and leisure facilities.

Yours sincerely

**SHONA ROBISON**

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