

DOCUMENT 1 : 23/24 BUDGET AND ALLOCATIONS – RESOURCE AND CAPITAL EMAIL

From: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 11:22 AM  
To: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
Cc: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: 23/24 Budget and allocations - resource and capital

Need to add lines to say the resource allocations include ring-fenced funding returned to ARE £15m in 24/25, [Redacted regulation 10(4)(e)]

[Redacted regulation 11(2)] – are you sending the response?

[Redacted regulation 11(2)]

[Not in scope]

DOCUMENT 2 : SAB COMMISSION EMAIL 2023 Q4 EMAIL

From: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 3:33 PM  
To: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; Strategic Approach to Budgeting <sab@gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
Cc: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Public Spending <DirectorofPublicSpending@gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @forestryandland.gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>;  
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Strategic Approach to Budgeting Commission - SAB 2023 Q4 – RALRI

Hi [Redacted regulation 11(2)]

Thanks very much for this – the £15m reduction is due to the agreement that our (returned first tranche of) ring fenced funding can be as capital instead of resource. So the capital return is increasing by £15m and the SAB has reduced by £15m.

[Not in scope]

Kind regards  
[Redacted regulation 11(2)]

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

[Not in scope]

DOCUMENT 3 : 2024-25 INDICATIVE BUDGET WORKBOOK - FPM TO BM EMAIL

From: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 10:55 AM  
To: BM's Group <BM'sGroup@gov.scot>; Deputy BM's Group <DeputyBM'sGroup@gov.scot>; Budget Holders Group <BudgetHoldersGroup@gov.scot>  
Cc: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; Deputy Director Group <DLDeputyDirectorGroup@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: 2024-25 Indicative budget workbook

Hi

Following on from my earlier e-mail, I am pleased to confirm that the resource to capital switch of £15m (referred to in the e-mail below) has been approved. Finance will process ABRs at the start of the financial year for this. I have attached an updated indicative budget workbook for 24/25 – only change is to the lines impacted by the resource to capital switch. [Not in scope]

Kind regards

[Redacted regulation 11(2)]

From: [Redacted regulation 11(2)]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 5:03 PM  
To: BM's Group <BM'sGroup@gov.scot>; Deputy BM's Group <DeputyBM'sGroup@gov.scot>; Budget Holders Group <BudgetHoldersGroup@gov.scot>  
Cc: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; Deputy Director Group <DLDeputyDirectorGroup@gov.scot>  
Subject: 2024-25 Indicative budget workbook

All

[Not in scope]

We are liaising with colleagues in central finance to pursue a resource to capital switch for the £15m ring-fenced amount returned to ARE in 2024/25. This is currently shown in the equivalent resource lines until confirmation is received. The split is as follows :-

Scheme	Amount £m	Level 4 budget line
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Agri Environment Climate Scheme	3.6	AECS resource
Agricultural Transformation Fund	3.0	Agricultural Transformation resource
Crofting Assistance	1.5	Crofting Assistance resource
Crofting Agricultural Grant Scheme	2.2	Business Development resource
Community Led Local Development	2.9	CLLD resource
Floodbanks	1.8	AECS resource
Total	15.0	

Kind regards

[Redacted regulation 11(2)]

ARE : Financial Planning & Management Manager

[Redacted regulation 11(2)]

DOCUMENT 4 : DFM COMMISSION TO CAB SECS SCOTTISH BUDGET EMAIL

From: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 8:29 AM

To: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>

Subject: RE: DFM Commission to Cabinet Secretaries - Scottish Budget

For resource the figures are :-

£944m 23/24 budget

£935m 24/25 allocation (This includes £15m ring-fenced returned to ARE so excluding this the allocation is £920m.

[Not in scope]

[Redacted regulation 11(2)]

[Not in scope]

DOCUMENT 5 : PORTFOLIO QUESTIONS EMAIL

[Not in scope]

From: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 12:54 PM

To: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; Kate Higgins

<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>;

Cc: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)]  
@gov.scot>;  
Subject: Re: Portfolio Questions - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>

Hi all,

Cab Sec is not content with the answer and would like this revised. Cab Sec has said the answer should reflect the £15m returning and the budget announcement. We need a revised draft, cleared by Kate by 1:15 please.

Thanks,  
[Redacted regulation 11(2)]

[Redacted regulation 11(2)] (he/him) | Private Secretary  
CabSecRALRI@gov.scot | [Redacted regulation 11(2)]

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[Not in scope]

DOCUMENT 6 : BUDGET FOLLOW UP EMAIL – NFUS REPLY TO DIRECTOR EMAIL

From: Jonathan Hall <jonathan.hall@nfus.org.uk>  
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 6:33 PM  
To: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>  
Cc: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: Budget Follow Up

George

Thanks for this – really appreciated.

I'll need to digest a bit further but first reading provides more clarity and, importantly at this stage, explanation.

We'll no doubt discuss further soon – probably at our AGM in Glasgow.

I might even buy you a drink...having stood you up on 9 January!

Thanks again.

Jonnie

Jonnie Hall BSc.(Hons.), MSc., M.Phil. | Director of Policy  
NFU Scotland | Rural Centre, West Mains, Ingliston, Newbridge, EH28 8LT  
Tel: 0131 472 4002 | Mob: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] | Email:  
jonathan.hall@nfus.org.uk | Website: <http://www.nfus.org.uk/>

From: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>  
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 5:07 PM  
To: jonathan.hall@nfus.org.uk  
Cc: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)]  
@gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)]  
@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>;  
[Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: Budget Follow Up

Jonnie

Good to see you at the SAOS event last week. I would have explained this at our scheduled catch up, but you stood me up. But I know how much you enjoy NFUS Board meetings.

Seriously, I know how important this issue is for your members. I think from our chat that you may have watched Ms Gougeon's post-budget evidence to the RAI Committee on 17 January where this was discussed in detail.

Ms Gougeon was able to update the Committee on a significant development since the draft Budget was published in December, which is that the Deputy First Minister has agreed to return the £15m as capital, rather than resource funding as it appears in the draft Budget. This is a development we hoped for but could not confirm when the draft Budget was published, and will allow the funding to be used to fund high priority capital lines within the portfolio which were otherwise unfunded or only partially funded. The change will be achieved as an in-year budget adjustment at the earliest opportunity.

In anticipation of this change, the £15m resource funding that we had agreed at the time of the Budget was instead allocated to the most appropriate resource line for the capital budgets we hoped to fund. This is set out in the table below:

Scheme	24/25 Additional budget £m	Position in draft Budget	Final Expected Position
Agricultural Transformation Fund	3.0	Was allocated as resource to the Agricultural Transformation Fund budget	Will be changed to capital allocated to the Agricultural Transformation Fund budget

Agri Environmental Measures Schemes - AECS	3.6	Was added to the Agri Environmental Measures Resource budget	Will move to the Agri Environmental Measures Capital budget
Crofting Assistance (Croft House Grants)	1.5	Was added to the Crofting Building Grants & Loans Scheme Costs resource budget	Will move to the Crofting Building Grants & Loans Scheme Capital Costs budget
Crofting Agricultural Grant Scheme	2.2	Was added to the Business Development Resource budget	Will move to the Business Development Capital budget
CLLD	2.9	Was allocated as resource to the Leader (CLLD) budget	Will be changed to capital allocated to the Leader (CLLD) budget
SubTotal all Pillar 2	13.2		
Floodbanks – farmers and land owners	1.8	Appeared in Agri Environmental Measures Resource-budget line	Will move to a capital budget line, perhaps a new specific level 4 line for Floodbanks Capital
Total	15.0		

Receiving these funds as capital will ease some (but not all) of the pressures for key capital priorities within the portfolio, and provide important support for the rural economy that simply wouldn't have been possible otherwise given the almost 10% real terms cut to SG's capital funding over the medium-term between 2023-24 and 2027-28.

This leaves a further £46m still to be returned to the portfolio. The Deputy First Minister is committed to returning all of the £61 million deferred ring fenced funding to the portfolio in future years, but as this is a single year budget, we have no confirmation of the profile for that return. Ministers' commitment is that these funds will be returned in full to support the reform and transformation of Scotland's farming and food production industry.

You also asked about the £10 million reduction in "Pillar 1 – other payments" and reductions to other budgets. As you will be aware, the budget process was extremely challenging across both capital and resource funding, with difficult decisions required to decide which of competing priorities to fund. "Pillar 1 – other payments" include the two Voluntary Coupled Support schemes supporting specialist beef and sheep producers which provides £48 million, and the Fruit and Vegetable Aid Scheme which provides £2.7 million. Support for these important schemes is unchanged.

The remainder of this budget has historically covered a wide range of policies, from public intervention and private storage aid for agricultural products, to school milk, fruit and veg PO aid, and exceptional measures to deal with market disturbance and more money has been allocated to this budget in recent years than has been used. It was appropriate, given the finite funds available to the portfolio, to reduce the

allocation for this line to more closely reflect forecast spend and prioritise maintaining other budget lines with clear spending plans.

None of this detracts from the Scottish Government's commitment to ensure that the funding received from UK Government for the purpose of supporting farmers, land managers, rural communities and rural businesses, and the Bew monies, continue to be used in full for the intended purposes, alongside additional budget from within SG that also supports these purposes. The amount received in 2024-25 from UK Government for these purposes is expected to be £620.7m.

W George Burgess

Director, Agriculture & Rural Economy | Scottish Government | 0131 244 0240 |  
[Redacted regulation 11(2)] | Saughton House, Broomhouse Road, Edinburgh, EH11  
3XD

25 Jan 2024

From: Jonathan Hall <jonathan.hall@nfus.org.uk>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:56 AM

To: Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>

Subject: Budget Follow Up

George

Good to see you briefly on Friday – Restoration Yard is somewhere I'll be returning to.

I'm still scratching my head after the SG budget on 19 December and, more so, having read the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for RALRI to the RAI Committee convenor (see attached).

The Cabinet Secretary mentions £15 million will be returned to the portfolio in the 2024/25 budget.

We welcomed that key direct support (BPS, Greening, LFASS), etc.) has been preserved and the stability that gives producers at a time when costs remain at historic highs. However, £10 million has gone from other Pillar 1 payments (see table below) and the Agricultural Transformation Fund, Agri-Environment Climate Scheme, Business Development and Agricultural Reform Programme have all been shaved.

The Cabinet Secretary also made the following comment in response to a parliamentary question...

“During the coming financial year, £15 million will be returned and it will be spent entirely on agricultural priorities. We will also provide the same level of support through direct payments to farmers and crofters that was available before Brexit.”

Can you clarify how the £15 million the Cabinet Secretary refers to is to be returned? I can't see it in the table below copied from the SG budget.

And can you clarify where the reduction of £10 million in other Pillar payments is taken from and why?

Confusion over those items is in addition to the outstanding £61 million of deferred spending. Notwithstanding the £15 million apparently being returned, it remains a fundamental concern as to when and how those monies will be returned.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks

Jonnie

Table A8.02: Agricultural Support & Related Spending Plans (Level 3)			
Level 3	2022-23 Budget £m	2023-24 Budget £m	2024-25 Budget £m
Pillar 1 – Basic payments	282.0	282.0	282.0
Pillar 1 – Greening payments	142.0	142.0	142.0
Pillar 1 – Other payments	61.0	61.0	50.7
Convergence Funding	25.7	–	–
Agricultural Transformation	5.0	5.0	3.0
Technical Assistance	4.5	1.0	1.0
Agri Environment Measures	35.8	35.8	29.6
Business Development	26.0	13.1	10.3
Crofting Assistance	0.8	1.9	2.1
EU Income	(2.5)	–	–
Forestry	0.1	0.1	0.1
Less Favoured Area Support Scheme	65.5	65.5	65.5
ARE Operations	89.2	91.8	102.4
Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture	–	0.7	–
Agricultural Reform Programme	20.0	39.0	17.0
<b>Total Agricultural Support &amp; Related</b>	<b>755.0</b>	<b>738.9</b>	<b>705.7</b>



Table A8.02: Agricultural Support & Related Spending Plans (Level 3)			
Level 3	2022-23 Budget £m	2023-24 Budget £m	2024-25 Budget £m
<i>of which</i>			
Total Fiscal Resource	696.8	693.8	675.7
Non-cash	4.9	5.0	16.2
Capital	53.3	40.1	13.8
Financial Transactions (FTs)	–	–	–
UK Funded AME	–	–	–

Jonnie Hall BSc.(Hons.), MSc., M.Phil. | Director of Policy  
 NFU Scotland | Rural Centre, West Mains, Ingliston, Newbridge, EH28 8LT  
 Tel: 0131 472 4002 | Mob: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] | Email:  
 jonathan.hall@nfus.org.uk | Website: <http://www.nfus.org.uk/>

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#### DOCUMENT 7 : RALRI RESOURCE TO CAPITAL SWITCH EMAIL

From: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
 Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 9:40 AM  
 To: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
 Cc: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>; Heather Darling <Heather.Darling@gov.scot>  
 Subject: FW: RALRI Resource to Capital Switch

[Redacted regulation 11(2)], colleagues copied in her absence,

Can confirm the Perm Sec and DFM have had sight of this now and are content with the proposal for RALRI portfolio to proceed with a resource to capital switch of £15m in 2024-25, with the capital pressure this creates to be managed across the financial year. [Redacted regulation 10(4)(e)]

Hope this helps your planning.

Thanks,

[Redacted regulation 11(2)]

From: [Redacted regulation 11(2)]  
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 12:40 PM  
To: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; Katherine White <Katherine.White@gov.scot>  
Cc: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: RALRI Resource to Capital Switch

Hi [Redacted regulation 11(2)], all,

[Redacted regulation 11(2)] thank you for bringing this back into view and supporting ARE with this issue as discussed when you met George Burgess recently.

Colleagues

What [Redacted regulation 11(2)] has outlined is broadly correct. The £15m referred to explicitly is return of the deferred ringfence funding referenced by DFM/Cab Sec RALRI [Redacted regulation 10(4)(e)]

To make best use of the returned funding and deliver on publicly made commitments, Cabinet Secretary wishes to take advantage of the returned funding to top up our significantly reduced capital budgets.

[Not in scope]

We have identified the initiatives that are to receive a proportion of the £15m deferred funding and business areas have to have confidence that capital will be available in order to progress their plans. [Redacted regulation 10(4)(e)]

Thanks all for your help with this and I'm very happy to meet in the new year to discuss this further.

Enjoy the holidays!

Best wishes

[Redacted regulation 11(2)]

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate  
Portfolio Finance lead - Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands  
Scottish Government  
Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Tel: [Redacted regulation 11(2)]

[Not in scope]

DOCUMENT 8 : £15M PURPOSES – BREAKDOWN OF ALLOCATION EMAIL

From: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 5:38 PM  
To: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
Cc: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>  
Subject: £15m purposes

Hi [Redacted regulation 11(2)] – sorry this is very rough, but a few notes beside each item that the £15m is to be spent on, in the hope that they are helpful in reminding you of each policy area.

thanks

[Redacted regulation 11(2)] | ARE Directorate | Scottish Government  
Tel. [Redacted regulation 11(2)]

£15 million allocation

Scheme	24/25 Addition al budget £m	Some notes....
Agricultural Transformation Fund	3.0	<p>Previously, budget allocations for ATF have been for £5 million of capital funds, which were allocated to the Sustainable Agriculture Capital Grant Scheme (SACGS) 2022, to support the purchase of low emission spreading equipment and slurry store covers; and to the Agri-environment Climate Scheme (AECS) in 2023 to support the extension nationally of the slurry storage option.</p> <p>The demand for support through each scheme was lower than anticipated and, subsequently, the budget for both years was under-committed.</p>
Agri Environmental Measures Schemes - AECS	3.6	Will support PFG 2024-25 commitment to hold a round of AECS in 2024, and this is scheduled to open for applications in January 2024.
Crofting Assistance	1.5	The Croft House Grant (CHG) provides grants for crofters to improve and maintain the standards of crofter housing, The CHG is a demand-led scheme with four application windows each year – March, June, September and December.
Crofting Agricultural Grant Scheme	2.2	CAGS provides grants for crofters to make improvements to their crofts and help to sustain their business. Funding can be used for capital projects, such as the construction or improvement of agricultural buildings and the establishment of Common Grazings Committees.
CLLD	2.9	CLLD supports multi-sectoral, locally-based development, allowing individuals, communities and businesses to come together to identify local needs that improve the economic performance and sustainability of rural areas through the design and implementation of Local Development Strategies.
SubTotal all Pillar 2-ringfence	13.2	
Floodbanks – farmers and land owners	1.8	We have received 68 applications applying for £1.49 million of grant support (which represents c. 6.96 km of damaged floodbanks). The closing

		<p>date for applications was Monday 15 January 2024.</p> <p>Applications are now being assessed for the eligibility</p> <p>The assessment of applications will hopefully be complete within the next two weeks and offer of grant award letters will issue thereafter. Farmers will have until 31 May 2024 to carry out the repairs and submit their grant claims in order to receive payment.</p>
Total proposed ringfence switch	15.0	

DOCUMENT 9 : RAI COMMITTEE MEETING 17 JAN – BUDGET SCRUTINY FOLLOW UP EMAIL

[Not in scope]

From: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @parliament.scot>  
 Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 11:43 AM  
 To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>  
 Cc: Johnston E (Emma) <Emma.Johnston@parliament.scot>  
 Subject: RAI Committee meeting 17 Jan - Budget scrutiny follow up

Dear Cabinet Secretary, Scottish Government officials

Thank you for giving evidence to the RAI Committee on the 2024-25 Scottish Government budget at its meeting on 17 January 2024.

There were several subjects on which you offered to provide further information to the Committee, which I have set out below—

1. A breakdown of the funding provided by the UK Government and how these funds were allocated to the RALRI portfolio
2. Further information regarding the £15 million pounds returned to the agriculture budget and how this money will be allocated across the portfolio
3. Information regarding the pay settlement for Marine Scotland mariners and what impact the budget may have on their pay
4. Information on the budget allocated to Highland and Islands Enterprise

The Committee would appreciate a response by Monday 5 February.

Kind regards

[Redacted regulation 11(2)] | Assistant Clerk | The Scottish Parliament | Edinburgh | EH99 1SP | Tel: 0131 348 [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @parliament.scot

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DOCUMENT 10 : RALRI BUDGET EMAIL

[Not in scope]

From: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:17 PM

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

Cc: Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Director of Marine <directormarine@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; DG Scottish Exchequer Mailbox <DGScottishExchequer@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: Official-Sensitive: RALRI budget

PS / Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands,

Good evening,

Please see attached note from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance.

Many thanks,

[Redacted regulation 11(2)]

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

E: DFMCSF@gov.scot

M: [Redacted regulation 11(2)]

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From: [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands  
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 11:41 AM  
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>  
Cc: Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Director of Marine <directormarine@gov.scot>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted regulation 11(2)] @gov.scot>; DG Scottish Exchequer Mailbox <DGScottishExchequer@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>  
Subject: Official-Sensitive: RALRI budget  
Importance: High

PS/Deputy First Minister,

Please see below for a note from the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands to the DFM on the Scottish Budget. Ms Gougeon would be grateful for an early response.

Deputy First Minister

#### RALRI BUDGET ALLOCATIONS & RING FENCED FUNDING

[Not in scope]

I am grateful that as part of its resource allocations, RALRI has been allocated £15m as the first tranche of the return of the ring fenced monies which have been given up in previous years.

[Not in scope]

I would welcome confirmation that you agree that, after the £15m in 2024-25, a further £46m remains to return to the portfolio and I can reassure stakeholders that this will be returned in years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

[Not in scope]

MG

Kind Regards,  
[Redacted regulation 11(2)]

Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and

Islands

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[Redacted regulation 11(2)] CabSecRALRI@gov.scot

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DOCUMENT 11 : DFM TO MG EMAIL

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

Thank you for your note. [Not in scope]

I agree, that after returning £15 million in 2024-25, a further £46 million is required to meet our commitment to return £61 million to the sector. I wrote to Mr Kennedy, President of the NFU Scotland on 29 November, to reiterate my commitment to returning deferred monies to the portfolio in future years. The timing will form part of future budget discussions, as part of on-going efforts to ensure we meet our obligations as custodians of public money, whilst recognising the challenges and transformation the sector requires.

[Not in scope]

SR

DOCUMENT 12 : EMAIL FROM DFM TO CAB SECS

Cabinet Secretaries

Copy: Permanent Secretary, Accountable Officers

The 2024-25 Scottish Budget is now finalised, and I am pleased to confirm your final budget allocations. Thank you for working closely with me on this.

The final allocations include a small number of changes which are detailed in the attached allocation schedules.

[Not in scope]

DFM

19 December 2023

DOCUMENT 13 : ALLOCATION SCHEDULES – INCLUDING RALRI



## Allocation Schedules

[Not in scope]

### 1. Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

2024-25 Scottish Budget	Fiscal Resource	Non-Cash (Ringfenced)	Capital	Net Financial Transactions	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Allocation	915.6	26.7	150.3	-	1,092.6

[Not in scope]

### Notes

- This reinstates £15 million ring-fenced funding deferred from 2023-24.

[Not in scope]