

## FOI 202500498752 – Only E-mail Within Scope

**From:** William Thomson <[william@scotonomics.org](mailto:william@scotonomics.org)>

**Sent:** 29 October 2025 18:23

**To:** Central Correspondence Unit <[scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FAO: Shona Robison. Follow up from my meeting with Gary Gillespie

Dear Minister,

Thank you once again for arranging a meeting with Gary Gillespie. I have attached your note suggesting the meeting for ease of reference.

It was an informative and engaging conversation (22nd October), and I am sure we both gained much from it. I have also attached my opening remarks from our meeting, which I hope you will have time to read.

My Gillespie was able to shed some light on the responses to our paper from a technical perspective. He agreed with much of our work and will consider our request to conduct the useful exercise of expanding Scotland's sectoral balances.

I do very much value the opportunity to engage with such a well-respected and senior civil servant; however, I still feel that the Scottish Government is operating in a policy space where alternative views on the importance and role of currency, economic convergence with the EU, and austerity-driven fiscal rules are unable to gain traction.

I do hope there is space for alternative economic voices that align more closely with the progressive aims of your administration—and with your own.

I would still like to meet with you over the coming months to better understand how we can provide support for a more progressive vision for Scotland.

Regards,

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William Thomson

Political Economist

*{Redacted s.38(1)(b)}*

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Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local  
Government  
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ionmhas agus Riaghaltas  
Ionadail  
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Our Reference: 202500493363

Your Reference: FAO: Shona Robison. Follow up from my meeting with Gary Gillespie

17 November 2025

Dear William Thomson ,

Thank you for your correspondence, 29 October, and for attaching your opening remarks for the meeting with Gary Gillespie, the Scottish Government Chief Economist.

I was pleased to hear that your meeting with the Chief Economist was helpful.

You mentioned in the opening remarks the Scottish Government's paper *A Fresh Start with Independence*. This paper set out the steps the Scottish Government would take to support the economy following a vote for independence. The accompanying paper, *The macroeconomic framework of an independent Scotland and the measurement of economic flows* provide technical information on the measurement of trade, income and investment flows under the macroeconomic framework of an independent Scotland.

Together these papers set out the Scottish Government's position on economic policy in an independent Scotland including in relation to currency. Given that the papers present the current policy position of the Scottish Government on these matters, on this occasion I will decline your kind offer of a meeting.

Thank you again for getting in touch.

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Yours sincerely,



**SHONA ROBISON**

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