

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for  
Economy and Gaelic  
Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit  
airson Eaconamaidh agus Gàidhlig  
**Kate Forbes MSP**  
Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA



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Ian Murray MP  
ian.murray.mp@parliament.uk

Our Reference: 202600503605  
Your Reference: (Case Ref: IM117202)

29 January 2026

Dear Ian,

Thank you for your letter of 22 January to Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government regarding the Investing in Communities Fund (ICF). I am replying as the ICF falls within my portfolio.

As you are aware, the draft 2026-27 Scottish Budget was published on 13 January 2026. The budget aligns government spending with the delivery of Scottish Government's four priorities: eradicating child poverty, growing the economy, tackling the climate emergency, and ensuring high quality and sustainable public services.

In setting out the budget the Cabinet Secretary for Finance was clear on the challenging financial position the Scottish Government faces over the medium-term, with successive budgets and medium-term financial strategies highlighting the choices and trade-offs necessary to deliver a balanced and sustainable position.

Ministers have now agreed a time limited extension of support from ICF which will deliver support for up to a year over 2026-27. This transition funding support is available to existing ICF projects with a grant award ending on 31 March. This extended funding period aims to ensure that projects that need it have continued support in order to meet their Fair Work Principles. Ministers have updated Parliament this morning on this matter.

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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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The ICF organisations have now been contacted to advise of this transition funding. Officials will be following up individually with organisations to provide more detail on the extended funding and assess their funding needs and are on hand to answer any questions they may have.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



**KATE FORBES**

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