

From the President, Councillor Alison Evison



Anna Fowlie
Chief Executive, SCVO
Mansfield Traquair Centre
15 Mansfield Place
Edinburgh
EH3 6BB

Tuesday, 28th January 2020

Dear Ms Fowlie,

Thank you for your letter dated 7th January 2020, which highlights your concerns around the delay of the Scottish Budget, and the effects this could have on voluntary organisations, including those who receive funding from Local Authorities.

Local Government very much values the essential role the voluntary sector plays in providing vital services to our communities and helping to deliver on Scotland's National Outcomes. COSLA shared your concern that the uncertainty of a delayed budget would bring and has engaged in talks with Scottish Ministers and civil servants to highlight many of these concerns. Throughout these talks, COSLA called for an early budget in order that Councils may have some level of certainty around funding and delivery of key services, and in turn be in a position to pass on certainty to key local partners including the third sector.

It is welcome that Derek Mackay, Finance Secretary of Scotland, has listened to the lobbying of COSLA and other organisations and has announced this month that the Scottish Budget would take place on Thursday 6th February. This will give Councils a level of certainty in their local budgets and will allow Councils to provide a similar level of funding certainty to key partners locally including in local decisions taken around funding and grants to partners in the voluntary sector.

COSLA will continue to engage with Scottish Government, sending a clear message that budget uncertainty and an unfair settlement will negatively impact on key services and supports that communities rely on, including to our partners in the voluntary sector.

Thank you again for writing to me about this critical and timely issue, and I look forward to continuing to work towards the same goal of ensuring sustainable budgets and services for our communities.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Evison
President
COSLA