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National Strategy for Economic Transformation

Thank you for your letter of 28 September in relation to the National Strategy for Economic Transformation delivery plans. As indicated in the Strategy and confirmed by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy, the Scottish Government had intended to produce the finalised plans within six months of the Strategy being launched. We have developed detailed plans and we have shared these with the NSET Delivery Board for comment. Unfortunately it has not been possible to publish the finalised plans within this time frame. I apologise that the Committee was not informed about the change to timescales.

As the Committee will understand, the economic and fiscal context has changed dramatically over the last 6 months, not least the cost crisis faced by households and businesses across Scotland. We therefore took the decision to ensure that the delivery plans respond to the economic crisis. To do that effectively, required some extra time and also that plans they properly incorporate decisions made in the UK mini-budget as well as the Emergency Budget Review.

We now intend to report the emergency budget review in the week beginning 24 October and will be in a position to publish NSET delivery plans by 31 October.

Do please let me know if the Committee would like any more information.

JOHN SWINNEY

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