

GENDER EDIT OF THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY BUDGET REVIEW 2022-2023

This gender edit of the Scottish Government’s Emergency Budget Review 2022-2023 compiles all references to women, gender and issues with implications for gender equality which appear in the document.

The Emergency Budget Review was undertaken in response to the “cost emergency”¹ and the UK Government’s fiscal response to the cost of living crisis. Following the UK Government’s ‘mini-budget’, published on 27th September 2022, Scottish Government announced that the Emergency Budget Review would be informed by a panel of experts,² evaluating the specific implications of the UK Government’s new fiscal approach for Scotland.

The Autumn Budget Revision includes spending reductions and reprioritisation of £615 million in addition to the cuts worth £560 million announced on 7th September 2022. Of this £615 million, £400 million is being redistributed within the Health and Social Care Portfolio, £33 million has been cut across other portfolios, and £180 million from reductions of capital and Financial Transactions.

A number of supporting documents were published alongside the narrative Emergency Budget Review. These include the budget document, ‘the 2022-23 Autumn Budget Revision’,³ a ‘Summary of Evidence on Equality and Fairness’⁴ which aims to set out equality impacts,⁵ and ‘The Cost Of Living Crisis In Scotland: An Analytical Report.’⁶ These documents should be read alongside the Emergency Budget Review, and this gender edit, for a fuller picture of the spending decisions described.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/news/taking-action-on-cost-emergency/>

² <https://www.gov.scot/news/emergency-budget-review/>

³ Scottish Government (2022) The 2022-23 Autumn Budget Revision. Available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/autumn-budget-revision-2022-23-supporting-document/>

⁴ Scottish Government (2022) Emergency Budget Review: Summary of Evidence on Equality and Fairness.

Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/emergency-budget-review-summary-evidence-equality-fairness/>

⁵ Engender wrote to the Finance Secretary in October 2022, alongside eight other gender equality organisations in Scotland, calling for comprehensive intersectional gender budget analysis of the Emergency Budget Review, and other cost crisis budget packages.

⁶ Scottish Government (2022) The cost of living crisis in Scotland: An analytical report. Available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/cost-living-crisis-scotland-analytical-report/>

This gender edit examines the Emergency Budget Review in sequence, with emphasis added by Engender. Relevant sections of Annex A: EBR Adjustments – November are included at the end.

Foreword

“We are [...] deeply concerned about the direction of travel in advance of the impending UK Government decision on the uprating of benefits. This support is vital to the wellbeing of those in greatest need across our society and any below-inflation uprating of benefits by the UK Government **will reduce living standards** for those **already living on the financial margins.**”

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“The changes we are making mean we are supporting public sector workers in Scotland with enhanced pay offers worth over £700 million more than originally planned, including pay increases of 5% to the majority of public sector workers and an offer averaging 7% to our **NHS Agenda for Change** staff. We have also identified around £35 million of further support, in addition to allocating almost £3 billion in funding this financial year to support the most vulnerable in our society. That includes the additional commitments to double the **fuel insecurity fund** and increased funding to Local Authorities to support **discretionary housing payments**. It also includes the commitment to double the value of the December **Scottish Child Bridging Payment**, from £130 per eligible child to £260, benefitting around 145,000 school age children registered to receive **free school meals** on the basis of family low income. Funding of around £1 million will also be provided to help island households **manage energy costs** due to higher costs of living.”

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INTRODUCTION

“Following the UK Government “mini-budget” we anticipated a potential £660 million increase to our funding position over the period 2022-23 to 2024-25. However we now anticipate a **cumulative net loss to the Scottish budget of £230 million** over the same period, partly as a result of reversals in the UK Government’s tax position. In simple terms, therefore, in a period of less than one month, the Scottish Government’s indicative funding has fluctuated by £890 million and this is before the impact of any spending cuts that might be announced by the Chancellor in the Autumn Statement.”

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“We know that the needs of communities and people across Scotland are varied, and all public services will need to work together to better support people to thrive, and to prevent the human and economic cost of inequality in future years.

It is known that the impact of **the cost of living crisis is not felt equally**. Emerging evidence on the cost of living crisis from a wide range of sources has been considered to understand the economic and social challenges facing Scotland and we are publishing this evidence in an analytical report, *The Cost of Living Crisis in Scotland*.⁷ Some of this analysis was in place for the equality assessments that informed the 2022-23 Equality and Fairer Scotland Statement, and the report brings together known evidence as we approach the Scottish Budget 2023-24. Recognising the unprecedented nature of the changes on our budget this year, this Emergency Budget Review is also accompanied by a summary of the equality and fairness evidence which considers the specific impacts of the substantive in-year adjustments required.” Page 9

Fiscal Context

“The prospect of a **new era of austerity** is extremely concerning as Scotland has already suffered a decade of UK Government imposed austerity that has **disproportionately hurt the poorest and most vulnerable in society** and resulted in under-investment in crucial public services.” Page 11

2022-2023 Fiscal Management

“Work has been undertaken across the Scottish Government to generate savings options to support the achievement of a balanced budget and enable consideration of further cost of living initiatives including enhancing public sector pay. These include:

Reprioritisation of spend within the Health and Social Care Portfolio (£0.4 billion) to support a fair pay offer of approximately 7% to NHS Agenda for Change staff and to manage wider pressures in the Health and Social Care sector. Whilst lower than planned, we have continued to support overall increases to **mental health spending**, as well as delivery of **dementia, learning disability and autism services**, and cross-cutting **trauma work**.” Page 12

Policy Measures

“In the Programme for Government (PfG), the Scottish Government announced a package of support to aid families and businesses. In 2022-23, almost £3 billion has

⁷ Scottish Government (2022) *The cost of living crisis in Scotland: An analytical report*. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/cost-living-crisis-scotland-analytical-report/>

been allocated to mitigate the impact on households, including a range of support for **energy bills, childcare, health and travel**, as well as **social security payments** that are either not available anywhere else in the UK or are more generous. This also includes delivering energy efficiency and heating improvements and advice for those most in need through Warmer Homes Scotland and our Area Based Schemes.

The Scottish Government recognises that the **cost of living crisis has required a fresh approach to public sector pay** in 2022-23 and has worked closely with employers and trade unions to secure agreement to make fair pay awards that balance support for hard working public sector employees, especially those on lower incomes, with affordability.”

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“In addition to providing enhanced pay awards for public sector workers, action is being taken to support individuals and households across a number of areas, as follows:

- doubling the value of the **December Scottish Child Bridging Payment**, from £130 per eligible child to £260, benefitting around 145,000 school age children registered to receive free school meals on the basis of family low income
- doubling the **Fuel Insecurity Fund** to £20 million in 2022-23, to help households at risk of self-disconnection or self-rationing of energy use as the energy price cap has risen from October
- funding to local authorities for **additional Discretionary Housing Payment support** to mitigate the UK Government’s benefit cap as fully as possible within devolved powers, and providing local authorities with more flexibility to take account of energy bills in their prioritisation of households for Discretionary Housing Payments
- providing support, via emergency legislation, to protect tenants by **freezing rents** and imposing a moratorium on evictions until at least 31 March 2023
- implementing reforms to remove cost burdens for the most financially vulnerable allowing them to obtain **debt relief** through bankruptcy where this is needed
- introducing new **payment break options** to help protect those who have taken control of debt through the highly successful Debt Arrangement Scheme and who are impacted by unexpected increases in cost of living
- an Island Cost Crisis Emergency Fund of £1.4 million, to support island households who are already experiencing higher costs of living, with geography, high fuel costs, a challenging climate as we head into winter and a lack of consumer choice exacerbating this.”

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Annex A: EBR Adjustments - November

Resource Reprioritisation within Health and Social Care portfolio:

Portfolio by Budget Line	£m	Description
<i>Health and Social Care</i>		
Covid	116.0	A range of actions relating to Covid expenditure on vaccinations, test and protect, PPE and additional capacity to drive down additional costs.
Social Care and National Care Service (NCS) re-profiling	70.0	Continuing to progress the commitment to fair work and adult social care, with a oneoff saving released this financial year as we work with stakeholders on delivery mechanisms for future years. Re-phasing of NCS development from the Financial Memorandum based on recruitment profile and data and digital investment.
Primary Care	65.0	This has been achieved by a reduction in the planned growth rate for the Primary Care Improvement Fund, including a one-off utilisation of reserve funding held by integration authorities. In addition, it includes re-phasing of some elements of the planned enhancements to community optometry and audiology services.
Re-phasing and pausing of other programmes	63.0	Includes Scottish Trauma Network, Genomics programmes and improvement programmes on older people, clinical audit and education and development.
Mental Health	38.0	This has included continuing to support overall increases to mental health spending as well as delivery of dementia, learning disability and autism services, and crosscutting trauma work at level of last year's spend. Within the revised budget we will seek to focus on progressing existing commitments including clearing CAMHS and psychological therapies waiting times backlogs
Population Health	13.0	Re-phasing of commitment to double investment in sport, reprioritisation of health improvement spending.

Resource Savings Across Portfolios:

Portfolio by Budget Line	£m	Description
<i>Education and Skills</i>		
Further Education	1.3	Reduction in grant spend for international Higher Education.
<i>Finance and Economy</i>		
Economic Development	1.8	Reduction in grant expenditure and demand led funding.
<i>Social Justice Housing and Local Government</i>		
Social Security	3.0	Reduced expenditure in Social Security Scotland operational costs.
Communities	2.0	Re-phasing of expenditure on child poverty as actual delivery costs emerge. This is due to programmes with partners developing at a pace that requires less funding than anticipated. This re-profiling of expenditure will be spent in future financial years to achieve child poverty targets.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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ABOUT US

Engender is Scotland's feminist policy and advocacy organisation, working to increase women's social, political and economic equality, enable women's rights, and make visible the impact of sexism on women and wider society. We work at Scottish, UK and international level to produce research, analysis, and recommendations for intersectional feminist legislation and programmes.